■ Metro / A22

William Martinez acquitted of drug charges; case 'weak'

■ Business / B1

RP losing out to Malaysia, Vietnam as investment sites

■ Entertainment / A 32

Amalia Fuentes protests 'Imbestigador' invasion of privacy

■ News / A2

40 US Marines here on relief, rescue mission

■ INQUIRER IN-DEPTH

Pagkaing kalye: Safe nga ba?

Ngayong alas-10 ng gabi sa ABC!

Ex-Nigerian envoy found guilty of raping Pinay maid

GENEVA—A Swiss court Tuesday found a former Nigerian ambassador guilty of raping his housemaid and sentenced him to eight years in prison.

Ejoh Abuah, 69, who was tried in absentia by the Geneva cantonal (state) court, will have to serve the sentence if he ever returns to Switzerland.

EX-NIGERIAN/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Jamby subjects 'sin tax' to 'regression analysis'

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEBATES on the so-called sin taxes may have finally taken a toll on some senators.

Neophyte Sen. Jamby Madrigal provided comic

JAMBY/ A10

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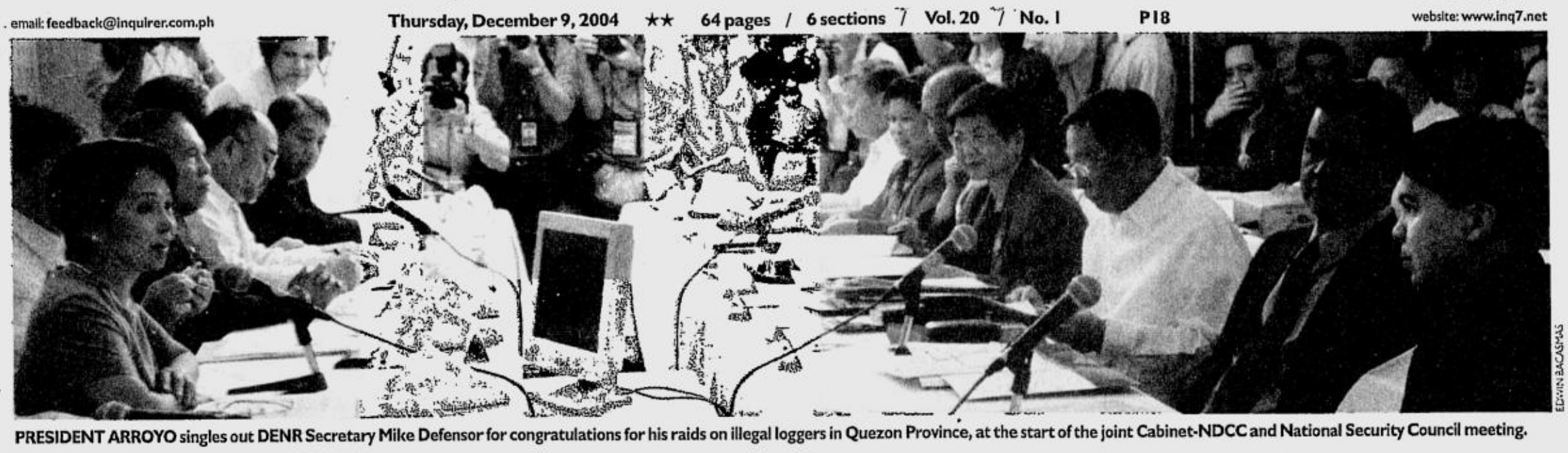


EDWIN BACASMAS

PRESIDENT ARROYO singles out DENR Secretary Mike Defensor for congratulations for his raids on illegal loggers in Quezon Province, at the start of the joint Cabinet-NDCC and National Security Council meeting.

Erap case witness killed

Task force has 30 days to nail illegal loggers

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Blanche S. Rivera

SAYING the protection of Philippine forests had become a matter of national survival, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday gave her officials 30 days to hunt down and hale illegal loggers to court.

"Illegal loggers are violators of the right to a sustainable environment," the President said in a speech at the Heroes' Hall in Malacañang marking International Human Rights Day.

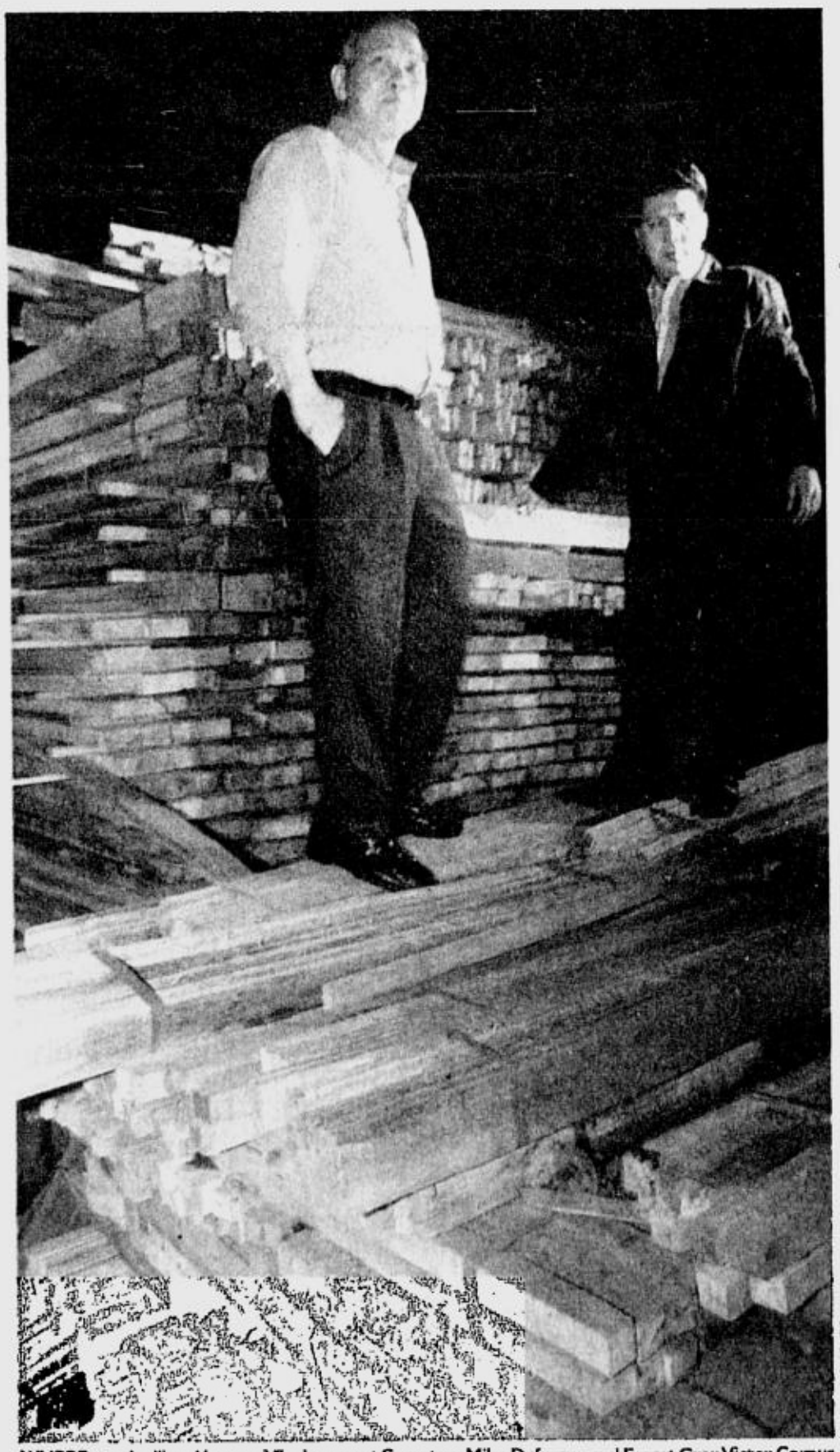
Earlier in the day, Ms Arroyo convened a joint meeting of the Cabinet, the National Disaster Coordinating Council and the National Security Council at Camp Aguinaldo to assess the damage wrought by four typhoons in Luzon and the status of relief and rehabilitation work.

"This morning, I gave [Environment] Secretary Michael Defensor, [Natural Resources Development Corp. chair] Gen. Victor Corpus and [Justice] Secretary Raul Gonzalez one month to identify, investigate and prosecute the big-time illegal loggers, starting from the hardest-hit disaster areas," she said.

Corpus, a retired general, was recently appointed to oversee a nationwide reforestation program and to go after communist rebels who were supposedly involved in illegal logging in the typhoon-affected areas.

The President said she was

TASK FORCE/ A8



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

WHERE are the illegal loggers? Environment Secretary Mike Defensor and Forest Czar Victor Corpus only come upon a high stockpile of timber when they stormed the warehouse of a logging firm in Barangay Lorenzo, Mauban, Quezon. Five other sawmills were also raided. *(Story on Page A10.)*

Both prosecutor, defense claim victim to testify for each of them

By Armand N. Nocum and Leila B. Salaverria

THE STATE lost a key informant and a "rebuttal witness" with the Tuesday killing of the secretary of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, according to Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

At yesterday's hearing on the plunder and perjury case against ousted President Joseph Estrada, Villa-Ignacio told the court that Singson's secretary of 16 years, Marilyn Perez, was being prepared to demolish the testimony of some of the defense witnesses.

But Estrada's spokesperson said that Perez was ready to testify for the defense.

"[Reyes, who was] supposed to be a rebuttal witness together with Emma Lim, was shot dead last night outside the LCS building," he told the court.

Villa-Ignacio's statement immediately drew protest from Estrada lawyer Jose Flaminiano, who said the killing had "nothing to do" with the ousted President's case.

In a statement, Estrada assailed Villa-Igna-

ERAP CASE/ A11

STORIES FROM THE DEPTHS

Engineer volunteers beyond the call of duty

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DINGALAN, Aurora—Engineer Alexander Suril volunteered immediately when Ramon Aquino, Department of Public Works and Highways regional director, asked for volunteers to oversee the clearing of landslides along the 36-km Bongabon (Nueva Ecija)-Baler (Aurora) Road.

Suril, who was assigned with the DPWH in Aurora, became the head of the project management office's road restoration project on Nov. 29. He said he did not want most parts of his province, Aurora, isolated from Central Luzon.

When debris from a part of the

ENGINEER/ A8

Parents-in-law file ₱134-M case vs Cuisia

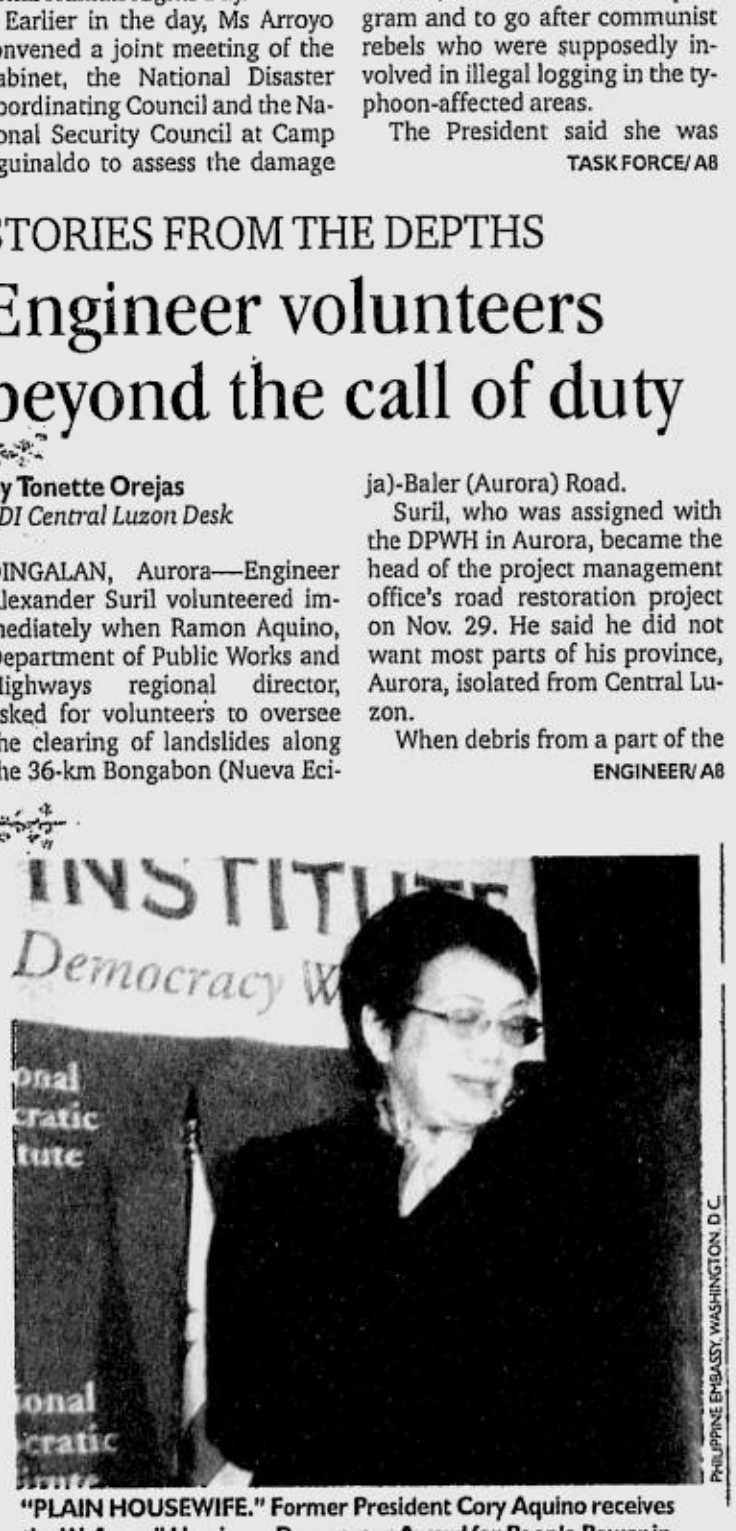
By Philip C. Tubeza and Doris Dumlao

THE PARENTS-IN-LAW of former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia yesterday slapped him and his wife with a P134-million estafa case before the justice department.

Domingo and Emilia Jose, who are both in their 80s, yesterday arrived at the Department of Justice offices in their wheelchairs to file the complaint, charging their son-in-law and their daughter, Ma. Victoria, with 14 counts of estafa for allegedly swindling them out of P134 million.

A separate complaint-affidavit to support

PARENTS-IN-LAW/ A10



PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

"PLAIN HOUSEWIFE." Former President Cory Aquino receives the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award for People Power in Washington on Monday. She said it was the "ideal conclusion of a peaceful revolution" and described herself as "the plain housewife" who didn't stay in the bedroom "where the dictator said all women belonged on the eve of the revolution that toppled him."

REFERENDUM PROPOSAL

Lawmakers challenge anti-pork survey

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

MEMBERS of the House of Representatives yesterday crossed party lines to challenge the Pulse Asia survey which found that 84 percent of Filipinos were against the current pork barrel system.

Some dared Pulse Asia to do a survey in their respective districts, while others suggested that a referendum be conducted to settle whether the people were in favor of lawmakers enjoying pork barrel funds.

House Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Eduardo Gullas (Alayon, Cebu) said results of the survey, which covered 1,200 respondents from Oct. 22 to Nov. 6, were "at best, open to question."

"The survey does not reflect the reality on the ground, which is that our constituents appreciate the projects we're bringing home through our pork barrel," Gullas said.

He said the best way to determine the acceptability of the pork barrel system was through a national referendum.

"We can perhaps have this referendum simultaneously with the next elections, whether it's the local or barangay elections, whichever comes first," Gullas said.

At the Senate, Franklin Drilon, president of the chamber, said the findings of Pulse Asia validated his observation that the "wrongdoing of a few lawmakers in abusing their pork barrel privileges has created a negative public perception of the system."

"It is indeed unfortunate that pork barrel has become synony-

LAWMAKERS/ A10

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent over Eastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/12/09/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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US Marines here on relief mission

By Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—US Marines have started arriving in the country to join in the relief and rescue operations for typhoon victims in Aurora and Quezon provinces where landslides and flash floods have left over 1,000 people dead or missing.

"They are here for humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions," US Navy Capt. Dennis Williams said in a phone interview. "We will stay here as long as the people of the Philippines want us to help them," he added.

An advance team of 40 US Marines from Okinawa, Japan, arrived Tuesday night at Clark and will be joined by another 560 marines over the next few days, Williams said.

Maj. Archangel Gamido, civil military operation officer and acting public information officer of the Philippine Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing here, said two US C-130 Hercules transport aircraft loaded with relief goods landed at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport on Tuesday night. More C-130 cargo planes with tons of foods and clothing are scheduled to arrive.

Seahawk choppers

Yesterday, the US Marines on board two Seahawk helicopters arrived in Infanta, Quezon, to drop off medicines, drinking water and food packs to hungry survivors left homeless by landslides and floods.

The helicopters from the US Navy's Squadron 14 based in Japan also airlifted sick survivors to and from the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

It is expected that 12 more US military helicopters from Okinawa will join the relief operations within the next few days.

Three huge transport helicopters capable of carrying 2,275 kg of cargo were due to arrive at Clark on Wednesday night, Williams said.

Williams said the US Marines would also be ferrying tents, generators and blankets in the next few days.

Since Tuesday, two HH60 Blackhawk helicopters, operating from a US Navy ship anchored in Subic Bay, have been shuttling medical teams and emergency supplies to Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns in Quezon which bore the brunt of the casualties and devastation.

Williams said the advance team of US Marines had begun assessing the extent of the damage and amount of work needed to prevent a humanitarian crisis in the worst-hit areas.

Much of Infanta remained covered in mud and hundreds of survivors crowded a school converted into an evacuation and medical center. Intermittent rain and high winds were hampering clean-up operations and threatening to ground air support.

Stretching food

Survivor Nenita Ruidera, 67, jostled for a kilo of rice which she said she would try to stretch for several days. "I would have to make porridge with it so it would last long," she said.

Ruidera, along with her four children and four grandchildren, had survived the mudslides but said many remained sick and should be evacuated.

In Aurora, thousands of residents of Dingalan town feasted Tuesday on relief goods delivered by followers of Supreme Master Ching Hai and the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation. Pampanga Board Member Lilia Pineda also held separate relief missions for victims of landslides and flash floods in the town's 11 villages.

The goods comprised of rice, canned goods, cooking wares, pails, plates and glasses, clothes and sleeping mats.

Lee Thuy, a Vietnamese, gave the pair of slippers she was wearing when she went to the Dingalan National High School where 110 families are staying.

Sharing love

"We want to share some love to the people," Thuy, a member of the Supreme Master Ching Hai's group, said in halting English. Her group of 15 Vietnamese and Taiwanese left Manila on Monday night.

Assistance from the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) also reached Dingalan Tuesday. These comprised of 350 cartons of starter kits (cooking wares and food) and seven boxes of various medicines and water purifiers.

In Baguio City, more than 1,000 Philippine Military Academy cadets donated a week's pay to buy food and medicine for the typhoon victims.

Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson, said 1,052 cadets contributed to a P400,000 fund which the PMA delivered to the Department of National Defense this week.

Arevalo said first class cadets were also sent to typhoon-hit areas to help in relief and retrieval operations. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Reuters, AFP*

Relief not yet drying up—DSWD

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday sought to allay fears that cash and relief goods are drying up for the thousands victimized by recent typhoons in Luzon.

A day after she admitted in a Senate budget hearing that the Department of Social Welfare and Development is already running out of funds for dealing with the current tragedy, she clarified that DSWD can "still draw" from what remains of the P700 million national calamity fund this year.

The P700 million which is under the National Disaster Coordinating Council is divided into two components—P350 million for relief operations, and the other P350 million for rehabilitation programs. Of the P350 million for relief, 25 percent each is released to the social welfare, health, public works and defense departments, she explained.

GENERAL ON TRIAL
Retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia talks with his military counsel in yesterday's hearing of the military court at Camp Aguinaldo. Garcia, who is also facing criminal charges before the Ombudsman on his alleged multimillion-peso unexplained wealth, is facing court martial for, among other things, conduct unbecoming and officer and gentleman.

BOC list of smugglers useless, senators say

By Christine O. Avendaño

A MUCH-AWAITED list of suspected big-time smugglers in the country submitted by Customs officials has been dismissed by senators as "nothing."

At the resumption of the joint hearing yesterday of the Senate committees on trade and commerce and economic affairs into the growing problem of smuggling, senators said they had doubts about the integrity of the confidential watch list of "suspected Custom offenders" submitted by the Bureau of Customs.

They said the list had been prepared only by BOC officials without coordination with other intelligence agencies.

They also found that the names of other known smugglers were curiously excluded from the BOC list.

Sen. Mar Roxas, who chairs both committees, told reporters the senators were dismayed with the BOC which apparently was not serious about the fight against smuggling.

"Frankly, I don't find the list to be worthy of any urgent and immediate study. It looks like they just made it up," Roxas said, saying testily that BOC officials should just resign from their positions.

Second list

It was the second list of suspected smugglers that the BOC submitted to the committees since the Senate inquiry began in September.

Last October, the BOC turned over a list of 200 suspected smugglers but Roxas dismissed it as a "mere inventory of old and pending cases of smuggling that involve mostly old fry." He then asked for an updated list.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile suggested that the committees accept the second list submitted by the BOC "without vouching for its integrity, credibility or truthfulness."

During the hearing, Enrile asked BOC officials whether suspected smugglers Ferdie Lee and Johnny Trajano were included in the watch list.

Enrile said Lee was a Singaporean allegedly involved in the smuggling of drugs while Trajano, an alias, is the "giant of them all.'

BOC deputy commissioner Reynaldo Nicolas replied "no," prompting Enrile to tell him to "redo your list."

Nicolas said the list was continually updated but then left the senators when he said that this was the first time the BOC had prepared a smugglers watch list.

Enrile later told committee members to use the list with caution. "We have to study that list because we don't know if the contents there are true," he said.

Enrile described Trajano as someone who could smuggle in an airplane if he wanted to.

He also said that reports have reached him that suspected smugglers would pay P1 million in exchange for their names to be taken out of the BOC watch list.

Chinese national

Sen. Panfilo Lacson was also surprised that Trajano was not included in the watch list. A former national police chief, Lacson said Trajano was a known smuggler whose real name was Johnny Sy, a Chinese national.

Lacson was surprised that the BOC personnel were the ones that prepared the watch list. He said that at the PNP during his tenure, an order of battle or watch list was usually prepared with the assistance of other agencies involved in intelligence work.

"Obviously they want to protect their own turf because somebody might input personalities that they do not want to include in the watch list," he said.

"That could only be the reason why they did not involve other intelligence units or agencies," he said.

Roxas said he had been told by BOC officials that the name of businessman Lucio Co was included in the watch list, but he has yet to go through the list to confirm this.

Sen. Richard Gordon threatened the BOC officials with contempt "if they are not forthright."

Gordon said the BOC was not doing its job in fighting smuggling and the BOC officials who appeared at yesterday's hearing seemed to have been lying.

"They are giving a document that does not have any meaning. They just listed down names just so they would have something to give to us," he said.

House approves 2005 budget

THE HOUSE of Representatives approved on third and final reading last night the proposed P907.7 billion national budget for 2005 with a vote of 155-22 with no abstentions.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. hailed the passage of the 2005 general appropriations bill which he described as "spartan, prudent and reformist."

"The approval of the budget is our commitment to reform and responsible development," De Venecia said.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur), chair of the house appropriations committee, was the principal sponsor of the budget bill.

Andaya noted that the 2005 budget is P46 billion or 5.3 percent higher than the P861.6 billion budget for the current year.

Following the House approval, the budget bill will now be submitted to the Senate for floor deliberations.

This will then be tackled by the bicameral conference committee composed of representatives from both chambers.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, however, said that it was now impossible for the Senate to deliberate on the proposed 2005 budget this month even if it were to hold a special session. The Senate will go on recess on Dec. 17.

Drilon had said that the Senate would only hold a special session for the purpose of ensuring the passage of the President's revenue measures. *Carlito Pablo*

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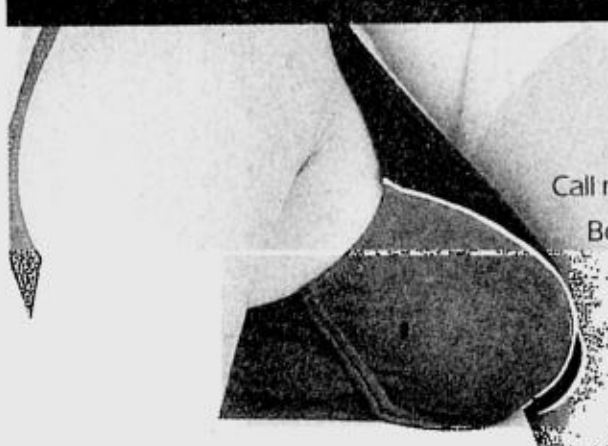

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Joker hits GMA retreat on telco tax

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's retreat on her planned telecommunications franchise tax following a fruitless meeting with telecom industry leaders set a bad precedent in the legislative process, said administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

"The tempo on any legislation affecting industry from now on will be conducted by the telecom executives, not the government," Arroyo said.

"What senator or congressman can stand up to them after the President had been so easily rebuffed?" said the senator.

The government had proposed imposing a 5 to 7 percent franchise tax on telecommunications companies but after a meeting last Saturday between the President and legislative leaders and the heads of the country's top telecom firms, the government said it was placing the revenue measure in the back burner.

It would instead focus on the passage of a measure to increase the value-added tax (VAT) from 10 percent to 12 percent.

The telecom franchise tax measure would have raised about P11 billion for the government next year.

The Senate minority bloc projected, however, that the revenue measure, coupled with the 10 percent value-added tax on mobile phone rates, would generate as much as P20 to P 30 billion.

Far from blaming the President, however, Arroyo castigated her advisers for exposing her to a meeting where her request could be denied, however diplomatically.

"Was the President not advised beforehand or, having been so advised, she nevertheless persisted?" asked Arroyo.

He pointed out that the telecom executives politely declined the President's appeal in the presence of a phalanx of congressional leaders led by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose De Venecia, her fiscal managers and the revenue and economic chairs of both legislative chambers.

Arroyo said the telecom executives did not do anything wrong in denying the President's request "because indeed they are duty-bound to protect their companies' interests."

He said the real problem lay with the President's advisers and handlers.

"Why they proceeded with the meeting without the preliminary spadework and with the result uncertain, a process that embarrassed the President, is the product of juvenile minds in the Palace," he said.

Drilon said, however, that the telecom franchise bill remained part of the President's eight revenue priority measures.

"I am not aware that it is totally shelved," he said, but admitted that the House had decided to give priority to the increased VAT bill over the franchise tax measure.

Drilon said there was nothing the Senate could do about the matter as all revenue measures originated from the House.

"Under the Constitution, the House must initiate [tax measures]. We can only adopt, alter, amend, reject a revenue measure that originates from the House," he said.

DOJ wants new judge for Tan tax case

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT will ask the judge who is set to try taipan Lucio Tan and several officials of Fortune Tobacco for tax evasion to inhibit himself from hearing the P25 billion case, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said that government prosecutors would ask Marikina Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Alex Ruiz to inhibit himself from the case since he had already dismissed it March 1999.

"We want a different judge since he may have already prejudged the case after dismissing it," Gonzalez said.

"Our petition to have this case transferred to the Court of Tax Appeals has been denied (by the Supreme Court). At least, we will get a judge with a fully neutral mind," he added.

Gonzalez said that prosecutors handling the case would file their petition to inhibit Ruiz once they get a copy of the high court's ruling denying the government motion to transfer the case to the CTA.

Palace defends meetings with telco, tobacco execs

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG does not find anything wrong with President Macapagal-Arroyo's secret meetings with top executives of the telecommunications and tobacco industries saying that these were no different from congressional hearings.

"This is part of the dialogue, it is part of consultation. Even Congress does this when they conduct hearings before passing a bill," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in an interview with dzR.

Just like the public hearings conducted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, Bunye said that the two consultations made by President Arroyo included not only industry executives but also the leaders of Congress. But unlike congressional hearings, the President's consultations were held under clandestine circumstances as both were unannounced to the public.

Some lawmakers have frowned on the President's consultations with the industry executives because they see this as an intrusion into their lawmaking turf. Sen. Joker Arroyo also said that the consultations have been a source of embarrassment for the President who has not obtained the support she expected from a Congress dominated by her allies.

President Arroyo met with tobacco executives in her Forbes Park residence last month and held a similar meeting with telecommunication executives in Malacañang last Saturday.

While the President succeeded in getting the nod of rivals Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris Philippines in supporting a compromise formula on the tobacco tax, she failed to convince telecommunication executives to agree to her proposal to shift the industry's tax from value added tax to franchise tax. The President has since scrapped the franchise tax and decided to push instead a higher VAT rate for telecommunication firms.

"We don't see anything bad about us consulting with business sectors to be affected by any legislative or executive action," Bunye said.

Bunye said the consultations have led to speedier deliberations on controversial bills such as the proposal to raise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products. "We believe in due time the proper law will be passed," Bunye said.

Group warns of text revolt

By Norman Bordadora

THE CONSUMER advocacy group TxtPower yesterday threatened another "text revolt" against the proposed two-percent increase in the value-added tax after what the group called the success of telecommunications firms in lobbying against the franchise tax.

Trixie Concepcion, TxtPower spokesperson, said the group is planning a stronger, bigger and more powerful text message-based protest if the increased value added tax pushes through to make up for President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged junking of the franchise tax proposal.

"The tax on windfall profits of the telcos has been cannibalized and turned into a Another Oppressive Tax on the Poor People," Concepcion said.

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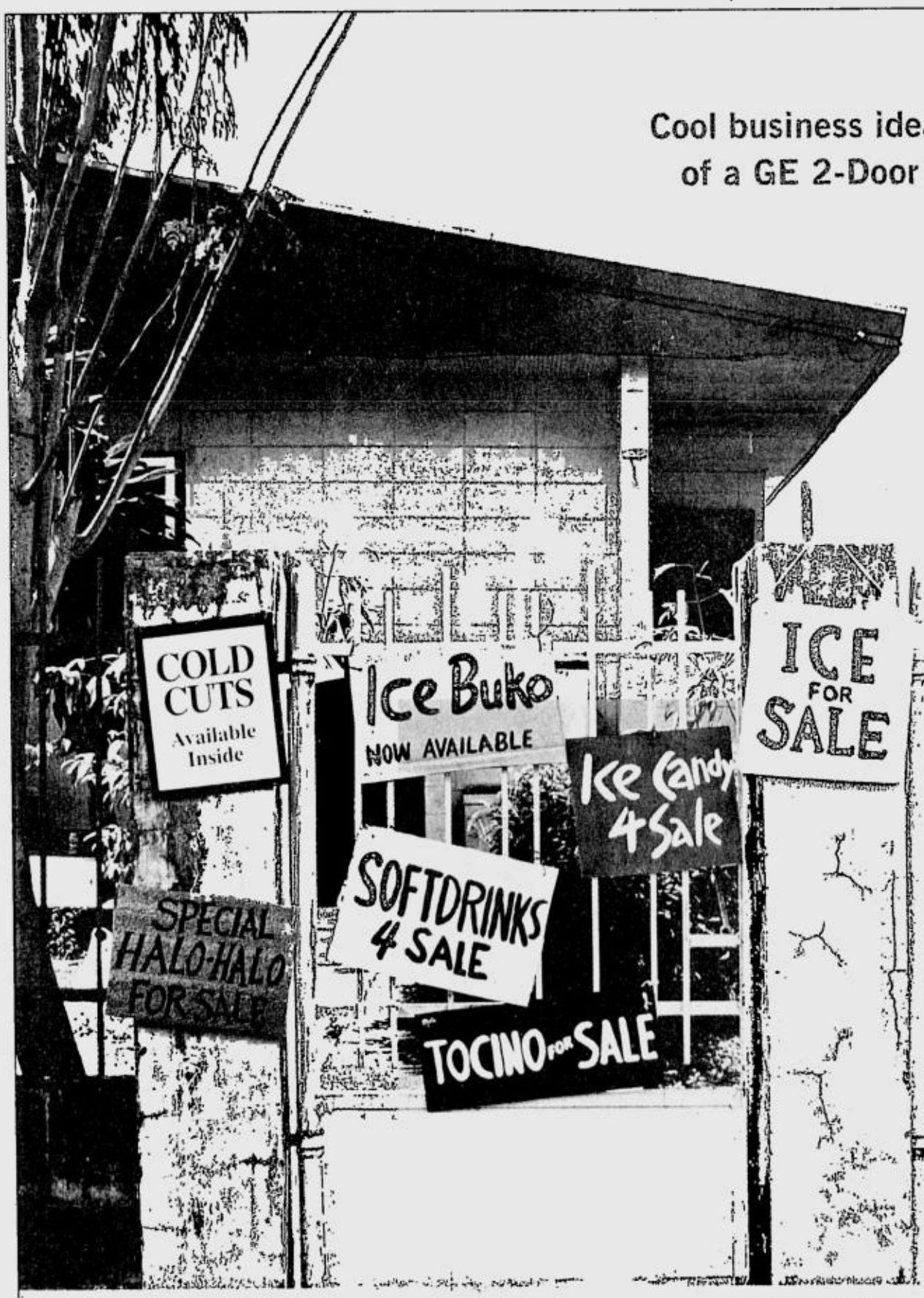

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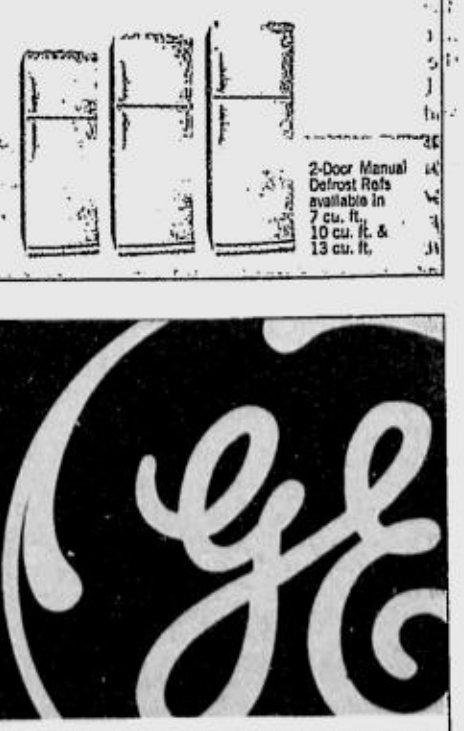

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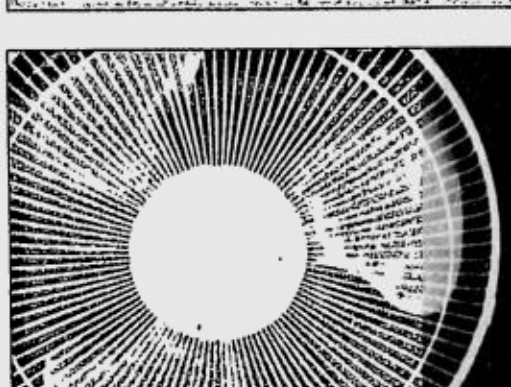

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Multi-billion savings and loan scam bared

By C. . Balana

A CONGRESSMAN from Sorsogon yesterday deplored the alleged pillage and mismanagement of the multibillion-peso assets of the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loans Association, Inc. (AMWSLAI) through "ingenious schemes" by its board of trustees.

In a privilege speech, Rep. Jose Solis, a retired Army general and former member of AMWSLAI, said the organization's trustees "conspired" to grant themselves with P77 million in advanced gratuity pay without approval from the general membership and authority from the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The AMWSLAI was created on June 11, 1956 by at least six Air Force personnel with initial capital contribution of P50 each and served as "*paluwagan*" for members to counter usurers. It has grown to about 32,000 members today, composed of active and retired military officers, enlisted men and civilian employees.

Solis said that in 2003, the BSP supervision and examination department III uncovered at least 10 irregularities allegedly committed by the incumbent AMWSLAI board which remained unresolved until today.

These anomalies included the grant of P680 million loans to 10,000 nonmembers in violation of the corporate by-laws; the grant of car loans to trustees with repayment period longer than their three-year terms, and the grant of additional compensation to trustees in excess of allowable 10 percent without BSP approval.

Solis also said that the BSP examination team also discovered that more than P2.7 billion past due loans remained uncollected; booked valuation reserves for loans and other risk assets is deficient by more than P2 billion; acquisition of a 14-door apartment over-prices by P1.2 million, and contracting the services of a favored construction company identified as Emeco International Trading and Construction Inc.

Furthermore, the AMWSLAI board also created the Philcredit Lending Service, Inc., and diverted some P150 million in cash advance to finance the operations of the lending firm, which same set of directors and officers like the AMSLAI.

"The AMWSLAI trustees have obtained DOSRI (Directors, Officers, Stockholders and Related Interests) loans from Philcredit Lending. The DOSRI loans were obviously taken from the AMWSLAI's P150 million cash advance to the lending firm," Solis disclosed.

Solis said that six of the incumbent AMWSLAI officials were arrested last Nov. 23 by virtue of the warrant issued by Pasay Judge Thelma de los Santos and Judge Gina Bibat Palamos for falsification of private documents.

They were Thadeus Geronimo, Luvin Manay, Tereso Pelias, Ismael Abad, Johnson Nestor Ocfemia and Anselmo Geronimo.

They were arrested on the complaint of two AMWSLAI members, retired Air Force Col. Laureano Lacambra and Maj. Marlon Marasigan for allegedly faking private documents related to the embezzlement of the P77 million members' contributions. The suspects were set free on a P12,000 bail bond each.

Solis said many of the incumbent AMWSLAI officials have managed to continue sitting as board members for the past 15 years and apparently have successfully covered up several anomalous transactions from the soldiers' trust fund.

"They have been able to perpetuate themselves as members of the AMWSLAI Board of Trustees and conducted several anomalous transactions that caused massive dissipation of corporate funds and membership contributions," Solis said.

Singapore PM arriving today

SINGAPORE'S new Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is arriving in Manila today for a two-day official visit, foreign affairs officials said yesterday.

Lee, son of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew who assumed the post in August this year, is visiting the country as part of his swing around member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), foreign affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said.

The Prime Minister, whose entourage includes his wife Mrs. Lee and Foreign Affairs Minister George Yeo, will call on President Macapagal-Arroyo and other government officials.

The President and Mr. Lee will discuss bilateral and multilateral issues, and explore opportunities for cooperation in security, trade and investment, tourism, information technology and socio-cultural cooperation, according to Asuque.

Airport terminal fees hike sought

By Clarissa S. Batino

TERMINAL fees at the Manila airport may soon go up to about P800 for overseas trips and to P200 for domestic flights.

On top of that, the state-run airport operator is studying proposals to impose a security fee and to start charging anew for the use of trolleys.

This is what the Manila International Airport Authority would like to happen so it could arrest a drop in revenue this year. MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi said the hike in terminal fees could improve the airport agency's annual revenue by about 30 percent.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport that is run by the MIAA charges a terminal fee of P550 on overseas flights and P100 on local trips.

"The MIAA has been asking for approval to increase the terminal fee overseas to about P800 and in domestic to about P200. But we would like to make sure that any increase would not drastically affect travel," said Cusi.

>From January to October, the MIAA posted a net profit of P640.4 million against a 10-month target of only P256.3 million. Cusi said the agency already surpassed its full year profit target.

Of the net income, a little over P200 million came when Cusi started in the MIAA in August. He said the agency's profit target from August to October was only P91.2 million.

However, revenue or gross sales during the 10-month period sagged at P3.67 billion against a target of P4.2 billion.

"Our total revenue generating capacity was adversely affected by the non-implementation of the planned increase in international and domestic passenger terminal fees," Cusi said.

The MIAA, he said, had to cut costs so it could register profits despite declining revenue.

Cusi said since he started at the MIAA, the agency had posted savings of P303.8 million. The MIAA had earmarked a budget of P910 million to cover expenses from August to October but spent only P606 million.

Apart from the increase in terminal fees, the MIAA wanted to collect a $5 security fee and to charge travelers for the use of the trolley. Cusi said these revenue-enhancing measures were still under review.

PMA kicks out 2 cadets

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Two cadets of the Philippine Military Academy here dismissed this week for punching a freshman cadet on Nov. 26.

Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson, said a battalion board found Cadet Third Class Michael Gaerlan and Cadet Second Class John Bayao guilty of maltreating Cadet Fourth Class Macario Acbang.

Acbang was hospitalized on Nov. 28 for a jaw injury. PMA officials said he is now recuperating at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in Quezon City.

"The upperclassmen gave Acbang an order he did not fulfill so one of them struck him on the jaw. Acbang bled. But we could only order him to be confined to the hospital a few days later when we discovered the incident," Arevalo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

He said Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, PMA superintendent, kept the incident confidential pending their investigation.

Balaoing ordered the technical arrest and confinement of Gaerlan and Bayao following the battalion board ruling.

"This unfortunate and isolated incidents of maltreatment will never go unpunished. The PMA will never tolerate this criminal act committed in the ranks of the Cadet Corps," said Balaoing in a statement. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, December 9, 2004
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 41:13-20
Gospel: Mt 11:11-15

Jesus said to the crowds, "No one greater than John the Baptist has come forward among the sons of women, and yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven is something to be conquered and the unyielding seize it.

Up to the time of John, there was only prophesy: all the prophets and the Law; and if you believe me, John is this Elijah, whose coming was predicted. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Commentary

Jesus said, equivalently, that John the Baptist was the greatest man (or among the greatest) who ever lived. Yet, he added, "the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he." The expression "the least" is the superlative form of the expression "little one." "Little ones" is the term used for disciples (see 10:42; 18:6, 10, 14); so "the least" is the least disciple. The greatest man who ever lived thundered judgment, but even the least disciple knows the greater depth and the superior power of love.

The scholars have found no satisfactory interpretation of the middle part of today's reading. Enough for us to meditate on the strange paradox that power is ultimately weak, and weakness ultimately powerful. "When I am weak, then I am strong," wrote St. Paul (2Cor 12:10). Expand it from your own experience: when I fail, I learn more (and more deeply) than when I win; when I am disappointed, I begin to emerge from the fog of my illusions and touch reality; when I stop trying to surpass myself, I discover only then that I have been trying to abandon the child in me who alone will enter the kingdom of heaven...

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The Employers Confederation of the Philippines has released the results of its Labor Market Information Service Projects - Corporate Compensation Survey 2004, Collective Bargaining Agreements Survey and, Work Life Case Studies. The first publication covers salary ranges and benefits of executives and rank-and-file employees in local and multinational firms. The second presents an analysis of CBA economic and political provisions of u nized firms. The third publication, a joint project with the Ayala Foundation, features corporate programs on work-life balance of selected companies. To avail of copies, please contact ECoP Research at 8971329 or 8904845.

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Griping cops backtrack on Aglipay extension

By Christian V. Esguerra

ARE THEY for or against the extension of the terms of retiring police officials?

Police chiefs who earlier denounced the practice in a one-page resolution yesterday, flopped and announced their "full support" behind Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay, whose term has been extended.

Dick Afroilan, executive director of the Association of Chiefs of Police of the Philippines Inc. (ACCPI), said the resolution had "no teeth" and was not meant to criticize Aglipay.

During its 6th national convention last Monday, the ACCPI, an organization of police officials and active top police officials, passed a resolution condemning the practice of extending the terms of retiring PNP officials.

The ACCPI said the scheme "casts the organization into disrepute and eventually into disintegration" that "deprives" other police officers their opportunity to get higher positions.

The position, in principle attacked Aglipay who had been granted a six-month term beginning last Sept. 13, the day he reached the mandatory retirement age of 56.

The INQUIRER report on the resolution irked Aglipay who insisted the ACCPI assailed the extension of terms in all other police positions except that of the PNP chief.

In a statement, ACCPI chair Guillermo Domondon yesterday said the resolution should not be "interpreted to cast doubt" on the PNP chief.

"Any impression to the contrary does wrong not only to the PNP chief but also to the (ACCPI) general assembly," the retired former PNP comptroller said. "We want to correct such impression."

Domondon said his group was even commending Aglipay for assuring the PNP that he would no longer seek another extension after his term expires on March 13 next year.

"The association fully supports the programs and projects of the chief, PNP; no ifs, no buts," he said.

In the first place, Afroilan said the ACCPI could not do anything about President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to extend Aglipay's term and that of other top PNP officials.

"Ours was just an opinion," he told the INQUIRER. "If the President chooses to extend a police official's term, who are we to question it?"

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November 22, 2004

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 29, s. 2004

TO : ALL ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES, SERVICE OFFICES, ACCREDITATION DEPARTMENT AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Revised Guidelines for Accreditation for Year 2005

I. The Department of Health has implemented Administrative Order 147 s.2004 effective May 15, 2004. Based on service capability, hospitals are now categorized as Infirmary, Primary Care, Secondary Care, and Tertiary Care. PhilHealth will still follow the old categorization as Primary, Secondary and Tertiary categories for all accredited hospitals.

For guidance of everyone concerned, the equivalent categories for DOH and PhilHealth are as follows:

DOH	PhilHealth
Birthing Homes (Primary)	Primary Category
Birthing Homes (Secondary)	Secondary Category
Infirmary	Primary Category
Primary Care	Secondary Category
Secondary Care	Tertiary Category
Tertiary Care	Tertiary Category

II. Per PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 723, s.2004, the Board resolved to approve the increase in accreditation fees.

A. The Fees for **Initial Accreditation and Re-accreditation** are as follows:

Type of Institutional Health Care Provider	Fee
Primary Care Benefit or OPB Providers *(inc. RHUs/HCs)*	P1,000
TB-DOTS Providers	P1,000
Non-Hospital Maternity Care Providers *(inc. Birthing Homes)*	P1,500
Infirmary *(formerly primary hospitals)*	P3,000
Primary Care Hospitals *(formerly secondary hospitals)*	P5,000
Ambulatory Surgical Centers	P5,000
Free Standing Dialysis Centers	P5,000
Secondary Care Hospitals *(formerly tertiary hospitals)*	P8,000
Tertiary Care Hospitals *(formerly tertiary hospitals w/ teaching & training programs)*	P10,000

B. The Fees for **Renewal of Accreditation** are as follows:

Type of Institutional Health Care Provider	Fee
Primary Care Benefit or OPB Providers *(inc. RHUs/HCs)*	P1,000
TB-DOTS Providers	P1,000
Non-Hospital Maternity Care Providers *(inc. Birthing Homes)*	P1,000
Infirmary *(formerly primary hospitals)*	P2,000
Primary Care Hospitals *(formerly secondary hospitals)*	P4,000
Ambulatory Surgical Centers	P4,000
Free Standing Dialysis Centers	P4,000
Secondary Care Hospitals *(formerly tertiary hospitals)*	P8,000
Tertiary Care Hospitals *(formerly tertiary hospitals w/ teaching & training programs)*	P10,000

1. All government owned institutional health care providers shall be granted a 20% discount on the initial accreditation fees.

2. All institutional health care providers shall be granted a 25% discount on the accreditation renewal fees provided that all renewal requirements are submitted 60 days prior to the date of expiration or of the date of renewal of accreditation.

3. All institutional health care providers shall be granted a 10% discount on the accreditation renewal fees provided that all renewal requirements are submitted 30 days to 59 days prior to the date of expiration or of the date of renewal of accreditation.

4. The increase in accreditation fees and the rules on the application of discounts on fees shall take effect on all applications for initial accreditation, re-accreditation, or renewal of accreditation filed beginning January 1, 2005.

5. In case the hospital is licensed as Tertiary under the old DOH classification, the renewal fee shall be set at Secondary Care Hospital which is Php8,000 until such time that the hospital is issued a new DOH license using the new DOH classification.

III. Schedule in Filing Applications for Renewal of Accreditation of Hospitals and ASCs for the Year 2005-2006

A. It is reiterated that the current accreditation of Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Clinics (ASCs) will expire on the following dates:

Region	Expiry Date
Regions VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, CARAGA and CAR	April 30, 2005
Region V	June 30, 2005
National Capital Region (Rizal Province included)	September 30, 2005
Regions I, II and III	October 31, 2005
Regions IV-A, IV-B and VI	November 30, 2005

B. To facilitate processing of applications for renewal of accreditation and the availment of discounted accreditation fee for the year 2005, hospitals and ASCs are enjoined to strictly adhere to the filing period as follows:

Region	Filing Period	Period of Validity
Regions VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, CARAGA, CAR	January 1-31, 2005	May 1, 2005 - Apr. 30, 2006
Region V	March 1-31, 2005	Jul. 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006
National Capital Region (Rizal Prov. included)	June 1-30, 2005	Oct. 1, 2005 - Sept. 30, 2006
Regions I, II and III	July 1-31, 2005	Nov. 1, 2005 - Oct. 31, 2006
Regions IV-A, IV-B and VI	August 1-31, 2005	Dec. 1, 2005 - Nov. 30, 2006

1. Please note that accreditation takes effect on the date of recommended approval by the Accreditation Committee. Claims for confinements before this date shall be automatically denied payment. However, if the application for renewal is submitted within the above-stated filing periods then the privileges of accreditation of the institutional health care providers shall not be attended by a gap notwithstanding the actual date of approval of the application for renewal.

2. The timely submission of applications with the full compliance to accreditation requirements shall facilitate the approval of providers' accreditation and the continuous reimbursements of filed claims. In case the hospital cannot fully comply with the requirements for the renewal of accreditation for reasons beyond the control of the facilities, such application is deemed acceptable based on the decision of the AVP for PhilHealth Regional Office concerned.

3. Procedures in filing of applications for renewal of accreditation of hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Clinics (ASCs) including the schedule are the same as in CY 2004.

4. Pursuant to PhilHealth Circular 15, s.2004, the hospital is required to submit updated financial statements in the application for renewal of accreditation of hospitals. Again, it is reiterated that this is to determine the financial capability of hospitals in the delivery of quality health care services.

IV. Schedule in Filing of Applications for the Renewal of Accreditation of other health care facilities for the Year 2005-2006

The renewal of accreditation of other health care providers shall follow the expiry date of current accreditation.

For guidance and strict implementation.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary
President and CEO

Gays want free AIDS testing

By Carlito Pablo

GAYS yesterday distributed an open letter at the House of Representatives calling for the passage of a bill providing for free AIDS testing.

Citing their right as "honest taxpayers," members of the gay organization Altermale lobbied for the crafting of such bill as part of their "Later is Too Late" campaign against the dreaded Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

"While we agree that taking the AIDS test is a personal decision, we feel that encouraging our fellow gays—and most especially straight males with a wandering eye—to take the AIDS test, is a step in the right direction," Altermale vice president Vincent Mendoza said in a statement.

"It's no longer enough for gays and straight men alike to be content with just knowing about the dangers posed by AIDS," Mendoza said.

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Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

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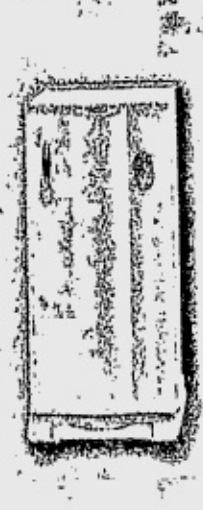

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Navy ship on mercy mission battles lethal sea of logs

REAL, Quezon—As the Philippine Navy landing craft floated through the pitch-black night vainly searching for the shore, giant logs slammed menacingly into the side of the vessel.

"This is what I was afraid of," said Chief Petty Officer Bienvenido Monedero, as he sucked on a cigarette, worry etched on his weather-beaten face. "These logs could be deadly and could set us adrift."

The crew had cut off the engine, fearing the propeller of the 60-foot steel-hulled vessel could be sheared off or snagged by the deadly flotsam.

Navy vessel DF 317 was looking for a drop-off point for much-needed relief supplies for Real, one of three eastern towns worst hit by storms last week which have left over 1,500 people dead or missing.

The back-to-back storms that hit Luzon have cut communications and left tens of thousands homeless, without food, water or medical supplies.

Navy workhorse

The only light source coming through the darkness was the faint blinking of flashlights from survivors huddled on a nearby pier.

DF 317 is the workhorse of the Navy in Real. Its mission is to ferry relief from the port of Mauban, some 50 kilometers across a stretch of the Pacific Ocean which continually churns with waves as large as houses.

Its small crew of 12 have not slept for days. They are kept awake by black coffee and the importance of their mission.

"In my 30 years at sea, this is by far the worst disaster I have witnessed," said Monedero, who has skippered navy vessels in areas such as the Sulu Sea which is infested by pirates and rebels.

"The sea can be unpredictable and the logs could batter smaller vessels into smithereens," he said.

On the vessel's bow, volunteers and the vessel's crew sat with flashlights trying to spot logs in the gloom.

Mile-long logs

A concentration of flotsam and huge logs washed down by the floodwaters from the Sierra Madre mountains stretched for about a mile and blocked the mouth of bay giving access to Real.

A portable generator was the only power source on the 20-year-old ship which has seen better days.

"Logs! Logs!," one of the crew members shouted, before a loud crashing sound was heard from the ship's port side.

The boat swayed a little, but seemed to take the blow. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief, but Monedero appeared more worried.

"This boat can take it. But not all the time," he said.

The vessel slowly inched its way to the pier, Monedero barking orders as he struggled on the wheel in the darkness.

Worthwhile voyage

The only communication was between crew members shouting directions to port officials on the ground. The Pacific breeze muffled the sound on the ground.

Some 45 minutes later the vessel managed to dock, but it wasn't gentle. The waves sent the vessel crashing against the concrete pier. Luckily there was no damage.

"Just another day at the office," said Monedero, who is planning to retire in a few years after his eldest daughter finishes law school.

"It's times like this that make it all worthwhile."

A throng of survivors suddenly crowded the pier, jostling for rations handed out by soldiers armed with M-16 rifles. *AFP*

HOLIDAY cheer? Or so it would seem but not quite. The faces break into smiles of relief as goodies are now within reach of these typhoon victims in Infanta, Quezon. AP

RECENT disasters in mind, President Arroyo said illegal loggers are violators of the right of sustainable environment during Human Rights Day rites at the Palace. EDWIN BACASMAS

Task force has 30 days to nail illegal loggers

From page A1

"grateful" for her officials' "swift response."

She said illegal loggers had been arrested in seven pre-dawn raids in Mauban, Quezon, and had been charged. *(See article on Page A10.)*

"We shall prosecute the wrongdoers and restore the dignity of victims of oppression," she said.

Vigilance required

Defensor said personnel from the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, and even from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, might be involved in illegal logging.

"I do not discount that possibility. That's why the community must be vigilant. If the community makes it a fight, illegal logging will be stamped out," he said.

Defensor said he could "hit hard" because he had "no personal interests."

He chided Sen. Jamby Madrigal for saying that he had done nothing to protect the environment and natural resources: "She should examine her family's history. What are the business interests of the Madrigals?"

The neophyte senator belongs to one of the Philippines' wealthiest families, who built its fortune on shipping, mining and real estate.

"If she wants to help, she should do something and not just talk," Defensor said, adding that the DENR under his helm had been "actively" campaigning against "hot logs."

Serious challenges

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said government relief and rehabilitation efforts would be unrelenting and would push through until every affected family had been able to get back on its feet.

"But we acknowledge the serious challenges entailed in the rehabilitation of our denuded forests," he said, adding:

"This is a strategic issue of national survival that will require the active participation of every citizen in the community.

"Our newfound solidarity to help the victims of the calamity must also rekindle our sense of awareness and concern for the environment as an investment in our future."

Bunye clarified that the suspension of commercial logging operations ordered by the President in the wake of the disaster would be in force until the DENR had concluded its investigation on illegal logging in the affected areas.

Long-term solution

"The operations are suspended until such time that the DENR has made its investigation. After that, the DENR as lead agency that investigates the individual logging concessions or operations will, on a case-to-case basis, make a decision if the operations will resume," he said in a radio interview.

Bunye said the President recognized the need for a long-term solution to the problem of the forest denudation by means of legislation.

"Congress will have to pass a law. We need to have a consensus on whether we should have a total or partial log ban, and for how long," Bunye said.

He said the President would certify whatever final version the Congress committees would decide.

Ignorance, greed

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, a longtime champion of environmental preservation, attributed the lack of a policy on logging to the supposed ignorance and greed of the government.

Rosales said the "application of economics" was the main reason Malacañang and Congress was still not going for a total log ban to save the forests and reduce the damage during typhoons.

"Greed is destroying the forest," Rosales said in a homily during a Mass on the feast of the Immaculate Conception at the Manila Cathedral yesterday.

In an interview after the Mass, he said the government and the people still did not understand how nature worked despite strong reminders of "the wrath of God and nature" during calamities caused by environmental degradation.

"Why do they not respect nature? Again, it's money ... They do not understand total or selective log ban," Rosales said.

"You impose a selective log ban when you still have forests to select from. But when you have very little, practically nothing, left, then you should have a total log ban," he added.

Fought for 11 years

Rosales, who fought illegal loggers for 11 years during his tenure in Bukidnon, said the government should not only go after illegal loggers but halt logging altogether.

"At this stage of the game, it's not just illegal logging that should be stopped, but even legal logging," he told reporters in an interview at the Arsobizpado de Manila.

He said a total log ban for 30-50 years would be enough to rehabilitate and revive the forest cover, of which only 2 percent is left.

"It's hard, hard, hard to fight illegal loggers because it involves money, greed," Rosales said.

"The difficulty is the strong application of economics. Let me say this as a man engaged in it before ... We have the wrong policy of making money out of our natural resources, cutting trees for export," he said.

Capital punishment

In a privilege speech, actor-turned-senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. sought the death penalty for illegal loggers after seeing for himself the death and destruction caused by landslides and floods in Quezon.

"Buhay ang inutang, kaya buhay din ang kabayaran. Death to illegal loggers!" he said.

Revilla recounted the two days he spent last week in the typhoon-devastated town of Real in Quezon, which, he said, was an experience that had made him "a complete human being" and "a better public servant."

He said he was in the province on Dec. 5-6, the height of Typhoon "Yoyong," and that what people saw on TV paled in comparison with the truth of what he saw there. *With reports from Fe Zamora and Christine O. Avendaño*

'He's so stricken by grief, he lost his mind'

KINANLIMAN, Real, Quezon—While neighbors hammered their mangled houses back into shape, Elino Peralta stood forlornly on a muddy track where his home stood before it was crushed by log-laden mudslides set off by back-to-back storms.

Amid the tumbled trees and wrecked houses, Peralta spoke quietly with other men about the nightmare they witnessed in what was once a scenic, riverside village called Kinanliman in Real, one of three Quezon towns worst hit by last week's storms.

> 'I have run out of tears, he said. 'It will take a long time for us to recover'

All told a similar tale—the booming sounds, the thud of logs, mud and rocks crushing their walls, and the mad dash for survival. The only difference was in the magnitude of their loss.

"We were only able to save our TV set," said Peralta, 49, a father of three.

He lost everything else—not a single wooden post of his concrete-and-wood home was spared in the muddy deluge on Nov. 29. But he still felt lucky that his loved ones survived the storms that killed at least 740 people and left hundreds more missing.

Floodwaters swept houses

Others were even less fortunate.

Salvador de la Cruz Jr., 18, described how his uncle held on to his four children as floodwaters swept his home, but lost his grip and his two daughters disappeared in the raging waters.

"He's so stricken by grief, so stunned, he lost his mind," De la Cruz said Tuesday.

At least 250 died in Real alone.

Ramon Gallardo, a 54-year-old carpenter, lost two houses. He moved some belongings to a friend's home further away from a rampaging river, only to see a mudslide sweep it away as well.

"I have run out of tears," he said. "It will take a long time for us to recover."

Philippine officials have appealed to foreign governments for money to buy building materials to reconstruct houses and water systems and to help farmers reclaim land buried in mud, rocks and logs.

Gallardo and Peralta tried to gather strewn logs to build new homes, but said they were stopped by local officials for unclear reasons. They had no money to buy materials and moved in with relatives and friends while waiting for the government to help.

It may take a while.

Real town's secretary, Leo Moises, said the most urgent business was distributing food and medicine. "We have no plan yet on rebuilding houses, maybe only temporary shelter," he said.

Turned back by soldiers

Hundreds of impatient villagers, eager to start new lives elsewhere, have tried to leave on ferries and military helicopters bringing relief goods. But they're being turned back by soldiers and the coast guard, who fear people will overload rescue craft.

In Real town hall, a sign hung on the wall read: "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

There was little holiday cheer in a nearby relief center, where women lined up asking for housing assistance, complaining that their children were getting sick in temporary shelters. *AP*

Engineer volunteers beyond the call of duty

From page A1

mountain in Barangay Villa in Ma. Aurora town rushed down the following day, Suril, 44, ran, shouting and warning his team to run for safety.

Uprooted trees, rocks

Aquino, explaining what happened to the Suril team, cited the accounts of survivors. He said that when the team reached Labi Bridge, a strong gush of water carrying uprooted trees and rocks swept away Suril and DPWH workers Luis Nanong and Edgardo Aragon.

Their bodies were found more than four days later in the downstream tributaries of the river.

Nanong's right leg was missing. Battered by rocks and trees, their bodies bore several wounds.

Eulogy

During the burial for Suril in Baler on Monday, Aquino called him and the DPWH workers "unsung heroes."

"Amid this disaster, our men did their duties to the detriment of their lives. They exemplify public service and dedication to communities we are tasked to serve," he said.

On Monday, helicopters airlifted gasoline for the bulldozers at the work site. Aquino said he suspended clearing operations, not wanting to risk the lives of DPWH personnel any further.

It may take several weeks before the Bongabon-Baler Road is opened again to traffic, he said.

Aurora is accessible via Pantabangan in Nueva Ecija. The route to Dingalan, which is separated by Mt. Mingan from the rest of Aurora, was reopened via a repaired bridge in Barangay Cuyapa in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. The DPWH put up a steel Bailey bridge in that section.

Residents placed tree trunks on the approach to the Langawan Bridge which had been damaged so light vehicles carrying food supplies can get to Dingalan.

US SEAHAWK chopper ferries children and sick residents from Real, Quezon, for treatment in Manila. Forty US Marines have arrived here on a relief mission for the victims of the back-to-back typhoons that had hit the country, and will stay here for as long as they are needed. *(Story on Page A2)* AP

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Defensor, Corpus lead raid on Mauban sawmills

By Volt Contreras

MORE of the same damning evidence, but still no face for the evil that is illegal logging.

An armed team led by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor and forest czar Victor Corpus stormed six sawmills allegedly processing "hot logs" in Quezon in a series of raids that began Tuesday night.

But the team, which invited news crews to cover the raids, failed to arrest any of the sawmill owners and merely took into custody two men serving as caretakers.

As of yesterday, Defensor could only name the sawmill owners who, he said, would be charged with violation of forestry laws.

It was the government's first high-profile action against logging syndicates since President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a crackdown last week.

In a statement, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the six sawmills were all operating in Mauban town.

Their owners are: Rebecca Gonzales, Barangay Ba-ao; Danny Miraflores, Aluhin; Carmen Manuba, Aluhin; Dante Mamore, Aluhin; Noel Co, San Lorenzo; and Joel Almirenes, Tejero.

"These sawmills were illegally processing timber that originated from Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns, which were all severely devastated by the flash floods brought by four typhoons recently," Defensor said in the statement.

He said the loggers used Mauban as a processing area for the logs and supplied wood to furniture makers in Valenzuela and Cainta, Metro Manila.

Expensive varieties

Defensor said among the seized logs were expensive varieties like lauan and narra.

The sawmill owned by Gonzales stood just behind her house, he said, adding: "The band saw was still running [when we got there]. What the workers did was to remove the teeth of the band saw and run off with it."

In Miraflores' case, he had a business sign declaring him to be a copra dealer. But his two-story house supposedly had secret passageways leading to the basement where hundreds of cut logs were stored.

At the back of the house was a 10-meter-wide river, where "hot logs" were believed floated for faster transport. The village is along Quezon's coastline that faces the Pacific Ocean.

Defensor said none of the sawmill operators were arrested, but papers found in their premises showed they used "recycled" permits to transport logs signed by Primitivo Galinato Jr., Region 4-A executive director.

Galinato, he said, would also be "held responsible."

Later in an interview, Defensor said the volume of the seized logs had yet to be determined but initial estimates placed their worth between P6 million and P8 million."

Only caretakers

Asked why the raid failed to yield big fish, Defensor said only the first and sixth sawmill raided were manned, each by a single caretaker, when the team arrived.

He could only recall the name of one of the caretakers as "Fred" from the sixth sawmill.

INQUIRER chief of photographers Ernie Sarmiento, who covered the operation, supplied the name of the caretaker of the first sawmill: Xerces Tampok.

When confronted, Tampok claimed he was merely a "fisherman" hired to guard the place two months ago, Sarmiento recalled.

The mill yielded a chainsaw and a stockpile of logs concealed in one of the rooms, Sarmiento said.

Corpus ordered some of the soldiers to guard Tampok before the team left for the second target.

Going by Sarmiento's account, it was not hard to see how people manning the rest of the sawmills were able to get wind of the oncoming raiders and to flee.

The convoy was composed of around 15 cars and two mounted police escorts, navigating mostly rough roads.

Lawmakers challenge anti-pork survey

From page A1

mous with kickbacks and corruption," said Drilon, who will give up his pork barrel next year in response to the fiscal problems of the government.

Still, he said there was a need to overhaul the pork barrel system "to ensure transparency and accountability in its implementation."

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has given up his pork barrel for good, said the pork barrel system should be abolished.

"I studied pork barrel and made a judgment on it as evil," Lacson told reporters in reaction to the finding of Pulse Asia that 54 percent of respondents wanted the pork barrel reduced.

The survey also found that 30 percent of the respondents wanted it abolished, while only 16 percent favored retaining pork at its current level.

At present, each member of the House is allocated P70 million in pork barrel, officially known as Priority Development Assistance Fund, while each senator is allocated P200 million.

Lacson said he abhorred the idea of granting pork barrel to lawmakers because it was a source of corruption.

"No matter how you monitor or supervise it, *meron nagpapalusot at may nagpapalusot* (someone will find a way to go around it)," he told reporters.

No national gov't projects

Rep. Faysah Dumarpa (Lakas, Lanao del Sur), chair of the House committee on social welfare and development, agreed with Gullas' proposal to hold a referendum.

"People in far-flung areas, especially in Mindanao, do not see any projects from the national government," Dumarpa said. "Their only link to government is through projects financed by the pork barrel."

Rep. Florencio Noel (party-list Anwaray) said the survey was a "sign that they (the people) appreciate pork barrel but want reforms, by making the system graft-free."

Unfair criticisms

Noel said: "I am sure that people in the provinces who haven't even seen a survey questionnaire will readily say that they need funds for local development and this is through the pork barrel."

For his part, Rep. Edcel Lagman (Aksyon, Albay) said the survey results culled by Pulse Asia from 1,200 respondents nationwide "cannot be generalized whether the people approve or not of the congressional allocations."

"They (Pulse Asia) can conduct surveys in our districts," Lagman said. "This (recent Pulse Asia survey) is not indicative of the appreciation of congressional development funds."

Rep. Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur) said it was time for all sectors to look beyond allegations of corruption in the pork barrel system and focus on reforms initiated by the House.

"Unfair media criticisms have caused the current public misperception and misimpression about the pork fund," Cagas said.

Jamby subjects 'sin tax' ...

From page A1

MADRIGAL: Certain elasticities

relief in the Senate Tuesday night when out of the blue she lectured senior colleagues about the effect of supply and demand on the consumption behavior of smokers.

Interpellating Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, Madrigal rattled off economic jargons such as econometric model, regression analysis and elasticity in explaining the proposed increases in excise taxes on cigarette products.

Amid chuckles from fellow senators, Madrigal, who is not known to be an economist or a tax expert, proceeded to use an algorhythmic model to find the incremental income of the manufacturers of low-priced cigarettes.

Applying the proposed rates of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (a 435.7-percent tax rate on low-priced cigarettes), Madrigal said would yield P0.7 billion for the first year.

She then used a "regression analysis" to predict consumer behavior in a certain market, in this case the cigarette industry.

Pythagorean theorem

Not even Recto, resident tax expert of the Senate, or Sen. Mar Roxas, former trade secretary, used regression analysis in presenting the wisdom of the proposed tax rates.

"Would the chairman accept my amendment in the event that I prove, through Pythagorean theorem, that this is a point at which the consumer will not buy cigarettes," Madrigal told Recto.

Using a projector, she illustrated through a line graph the basic demand and supply intersection to prove that higher tax rates on low-priced brands would deter low-income people from buying cigarettes because of the prohibitive price.

It was then made apparent that her ultimate goal is to help smokers quit the habit, not increase revenues.

Flawed model

Recto was then forced to ask Madrigal about her theory, pointing that the model was flawed because it only talked of the supply as recorded by the market, and did not take into account other "observable factors."

In the real world, cigarette dealers also buy supplies from smugglers which cannot be quantified at this point, he said.

"I went through tedious ... computation to show why we reached certain elasticities," Madrigal answered back.

She said that elasticity referred to the relative response of one factor to another (or if the prices go up in the case of cigarettes, would the smoker decrease consumption or shift to another brand).

"I did this to prove a point: that there is an econometric model, and that there is empirical data and process," she added.

Not empirically based

But Recto said the ways and means committee had a "different finding."

"But your findings are not empirically based and they are not calculated. Can you give me your calculations, models so that we can compare," Madrigal snapped back.

Recto, trying to understand her calculations, said that what Madrigal was saying was that the volume of consumption of a cigarette priced at P1.12 per pack, if increased by 630 percent, would not change.

"Meaning to say, if you raise the low-end tier, or increase the tier, it will be the same volume," he said.

Madrigal said that she was just "wanting to see at which point taxes could be increased where the low-end manufacturers would not have an increase in demand for his products, or where it would remain at the same level."

She said she wanted to point out that certain cigarette manufacturers would not benefit or lose from raising excise tax rates by at least 630 percent.

At this point, Roxas then interjected, saying he too was trying to understand the finding of Madrigal's econometric model.

'Slope co-efficient'

"Given the data and the regression analysis, what is the slope co-efficient that was found?" Roxas said.

Roxas was referring to the "elasticity" of consumer behavior in the absence of substitution (quit smoking by resorting to soft drinks and candies as alternatives).

He noted that the Madrigal model assumed "a broad range of action or behavior patterns by consumers because it takes the impetus as an increase in consumer activity."

"If you could just simplify what would be the calculated behavior change, assuming a simplified world—one product with no substitution either in cigarettes or in other consumer behavior—what would be the behavior pattern for every one percent or one unit of price?" he asked.

'Scientific rigors'

Roxas then ended his interpellation by telling Madrigal that although she should be credited for inserting "scientific rigors to our discussion, the model should be simplified such that there be no substitution because there can be a great deal of debate as to what would be substituted."

Parents-in-law file P134-M estafa case ...

From page A1

the complaint of their parents were filed by Ma. Victoria's siblings, Gerardo, Luis and Cynthia.

"We gave them our complete trust and confidence but, as it turned out, our trust was totally misplaced," the couple said in their affidavit.

"We could not bring ourselves to even imagine that Ma. Victoria and her husband could ever misappropriate our money. We were overcome by grief and disbelief that our trusted daughter and son-in-law could swindle their parents and siblings," they added.

Cuisia, who is chief executive officer of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. (Philamlife), denied that he was involved in any way in the management of his parents-in-law's money.

Trustee of parents

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Cuisia explained that his wife was holding the funds in trust for her parents who are both sick and undergoing treatment. He said his wife was acting as the trustee of her parents because she is the eldest of the children, the eldest brother having died.

"My wife provides for the parents' medical, travel and other expenses," he said.

"The funds are there. She is holding them in trust for the parents," Cuisia said.

He believes Ma. Victoria's siblings were "dragging me into this to pressure my wife into turning over the funds to them."

"My in-laws are sick and even when they were in better health my wife was managing their funds and there was no problem," he said.

He said Ma. Victoria did not want to turn over the money to her siblings for fear that the funds would be depleted.

In their affidavit, the Joses claimed that they initially entrusted P74.5 million to the Cuisias to deposit in their joint account with the couple, or invest in "whatever manner they deem appropriate for the benefit of the entire family."

They claimed that the Cuisias have refused to return their money to them. They said they discovered that the funds had been transferred to Ma. Victoria's accounts.

The couple said that a report of their accountant showed that the total amount in the custody of the Cuisias, "including interest and excluding expenses," should now be more than P134 million.

Payment in installments

The couple said that the P74.5 million that they entrusted to the Cuisias came from payments made to them by the Philippine National Construction Corp. which lost a suit brought against them by the Construction Resources of Asia, a company owned by the Joses, over a contract for a road project in Sabah, Malaysia.

The PNCC undertook to pay the P74.5 million in installments from 1994 to 1996.

The couple said that every time the PNCC would give them an installment payment, they would turn over the money to the Cuisias.

"At that time, we both no longer had the strength and dexterity we once had so more and more of our businesses and finances were being delegated to our children," they said.

4 other corporations

"Our thinking was since Jose Cuisia was a former central bank governor and was, at that time, chairman of the board of Philamlife Corp., he would be very knowledgeable about gainful investment opportunities," they added.

The couple said Ma. Victoria also administered, on their behalf, the finances of four other corporations that they owned.

They said the Cuisias would occasionally inform them of the supposed investments that they were making, including a substantial amount in Philam Asset Management Inc., a Philamlife affiliate.

In December 2002, according to the Joses, Cuisia informed them that he would invest part of the money in Banco de Oro or SM Prime Holdings because he was a consultant to Henry Sy, the firms' owner.

"Again, we deferred to his decision, thinking that he had our interests in mind ... We knew our daughter Ma. Victoria to be a responsible and caring person while the impression that her husband Jose gave us was that of an intelligent, prudent and trustworthy businessman," the couple said.

Something was wrong

The couple said they first discovered that something was wrong when their daughter issued in July 2004 several postdated Prudential Bank checks as payment for a building project in Sampaloc, Manila.

When they checked with the bank, the couple said they "were aghast to find out that there were practically no funds left."

A further check with their other bank accounts left them even more shocked, they said.

"The records were in disarray and what shocked us was the accounts that used to be in our name had apparently been transferred to the name of Ma. Victoria. Initially, we could not bring ourselves to even imagine that Ma. Victoria and her husband could ever misappropriate our money," the couple said.

Attempt settle dispute

In an attempt to settle the dispute, the couple met with Ma. Victoria on Sept. 6 at the Malate Church. But during breakfast after Mass, their daughter showed them a photocopy of a handwritten computation which showed that she only had P65,656,589.44 of their money.

Ma. Victoria allegedly even asked her mother to sign the document to indicate receipt.

"We were prepared to forgive her even if they had already spent part of the money as long as the rest would be returned to us but we were crushed when she said that they had no plans of returning the funds. This, for us, was unthinkable," they said.

Under daughter's control

The couple said they checked their accounts with Philam Asset Management, the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Banco de Oro, and ING Bank but they were denied access because the funds were already in their daughter's control.

They also discovered that Ma. Victoria had withdrawn the money, including interest, from Philam in September 2004. The checks pertaining to the withdrawn amount were even delivered to their son-in-law's office at Philamlife, they said.

They sent the Cuisias a demand letter on Sept. 15 but their son-in-law's lawyer responded by claiming that he "never interfered" with their money.

Cuisia's statement

In a press statement, Cuisia said he "(had) not taken a single centavo nor have I benefited from the business concerns of my in-laws."

"I cannot believe that my in-laws would stoop this low and make trumped-up charges against me and my wife Vicky," he said in the statement.

Cuisia claimed that three of his wife's siblings were using his father-in-law "who is 85 years old and is suffering from a debilitating disease which may have affected his mental faculties in order to promote their lust for money."

He said the three siblings were "not only in control of my in-laws and have poisoned their minds, they have also prevented doctors from examining and treating my ailing parents-in-law."

Ex-Nigerian envoy found guilty of raping Pinay maid

From page A1

Abuah's lawyer Philippe Girod said his client was unable to attend the trial because of severe hypertension and had stayed home in Nigeria.

Under Swiss law, the defendant has five days to challenge the court's decision. "There will definitely be an appeal," Girod said.

Abuah was posted at Nigeria's mission to the United Nations' European offices in Geneva from 1996-1998. He was accused of raping one of his housemaids, a 52-year-old woman from the Philippines, on four separate occasions from 1997-1998.

Not identified

"The facts are not contested—there has been a sexual relationship," Girod said. "But to qualify the facts in a legal way, is a different matter."

The court verdict did not identify the victim.

Luis Cid, head of a labor union which helped her get medical treatment and file a complaint in 1998, also declined to identify her, citing personal privacy.

The victim claimed that Abuah sexually harassed her regularly, appearing naked before her while his family was out of the house. She alleged that he threatened to revoke her working visa or to denounce her husband, who was living and working in Switzerland illegally, if she reported his behavior to authorities.

No immunity

Three other women who worked in the Nigerian mission also accused Abuah of sexual misbehavior, after which Nigeria recalled him.

Laws which usually protect diplomats did not apply in this case, because his immunity was lifted automatically after he left the diplomatic corps in 1998.

After a Swiss warrant was issued for his arrest, Abuah was arrested by Dutch authorities in 2003 at the Amsterdam airport and extradited to Geneva. He served two months in preventive custody before being provisionally released.

Girod also said it was unlikely that his client would ever come to Geneva to serve his prison sentence.

"I do not think so," he said. "My client has very high hypertension and it could be fatal."

Nigeria's mission to the United Nations in Geneva declined to comment. *AP*

Erap case witness, Chavit's secretary, killed

From page A1

cio for "indirectly implicating" his camp to the murder.

The 51-year-old Perez, Singson's long-time secretary, was killed with a single shot in the back while walking along Malvar Street in Ermita, Manila, at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

"She could have been mistaken for Emma Lim," Singson told the INQUIRER by phone early yesterday.

Lim, another secretary of Singson's, is also scheduled as a prosecution witness in the plunder trial that resulted from the governor's expose in 2000 that Estrada had received payoffs from *jueteng* operators.

CHAVIT SINGSON: Marilyn had been giving information to the prosecution panel.

DOA at the Philippine General Hospital, Singson's secretary Marilyn Perez was felled by a single shot in the back while on her way home.

JINGGOY ESTRADA: We had nothing to do with the killing.

'Feelers'

But in an strange twist, Estrada spokesperson Didagen Dilangalen claimed that Perez had sent "feelers" to the former President's camp to testify against Singson.

"The truth is, we lost a vital witness," said Dilangalen, a former representative of Maguindanao. "Villa-Ignacio's claim that the victim was to be used by the prosecution as a rebuttal witness was just an afterthought."

Contacted for comment, Singson said: "What Dilangalen said is a confirmation that they are behind the killing of my secretary of 16 years."

He said Perez was loyal, trustworthy and committed in her service to him and his family, and that she had no enemies and was even reluctant to testify in his favor.

Singson confirmed Villa-Ignacio's statement that Perez had been helping the prosecution.

He said Perez had been going to the Sandiganbayan and giving relevant information to the prosecution panel and reporting to him the developments of the trial.

Insights, information

In a break during the hearing, Villa-Ignacio said Perez was "earmarked" to "refute" the testimony of two secretaries of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the ex-President's eldest son.

The two secretaries earlier testified that they had not seen Singson or Lim going to the young Estrada's office supposedly to pick up jueteng collections.

"One cannot discount the possibility that the killing might be related to the ongoing trial," Villa-Ignacio said, adding that Perez had also been "active" in the case involving the Estradas' alleged misuse of the excise tax.

The Estradas are likewise accused of collecting P170 million in the tobacco excise tax intended for Ilocos Sur.

"[Perez] gave us details not known in the subject matter," Villa-Ignacio said. "She was able to give insights and information which I used to cross-examine the witnesses."

'Irresponsible'

But in an interview, Flaminiano said Villa-Ignacio's claim was "irresponsible."

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, another Estrada lawyer, agreed. He said they did not even know that Perez was giving information to the prosecution panel.

Saguisag also said they did not even know Perez existed.

Asked to comment on the supposed link between Perez's murder and the plunder trial, Senator Estrada told reporters: "If they would put the blame on us, I don't think that is proper. We have nothing to do with it."

He expressed sympathy for the bereaved family.

Asked why they were being linked to the crime, the senator said it was probably because Singson had accused him and his father of receiving kickbacks from jueteng operators.

Singson's charges against the Estradas led to the former President's impeachment trial in 2000. Both father and son are facing plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Not yet a witness

Singson said Perez was never a witness in the plunder trial.

On the other hand, Lim testified at Estrada's impeachment trial that she had delivered P5 million in jueteng payoffs to his office in Malacañang, and that she had gone to the office of then San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada to collect jueteng money.

According to Singson, Lim made herself scarce at their office in the LCS building in San Andres, Manila, because men had supposedly been hanging around the area and asking about her.

He also said Lim had feared that certain parties were intending to silence her, which was why only Perez reported for work every day.

"Maybe they sent a hired killer for Lim, whom he did not know, and he was told that Perez was my secretary," Singson said.

The governor said Perez had been in charge of sorting his mail and usually answered his letters.

He has sent his bodyguards to the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City, where the wake for Perez is being held. He was expected to visit yesterday.

The family of Perez, who was the eldest of eight children, was still in shock over the murder.

A relative said Perez had no known enemies and that the family could think of no one who would have wanted her dead.

'Very nervous'

In a phone interview with the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Lim admitted having received death threats and said Perez's murder had caused her to be more fearful.

"I am feeling very nervous," she said. "I am trying to go back to a normal life," Lim said her life had never returned to normal after testifying for Singson.

She said she had been staying in a safe house and that her movements were limited for security reasons.

She also said it was unthinkable that Perez would suffer such a violent death because the latter had never been engaged in any quarrel or had enemies.

Clearly murder

The Western Police District is still trying to determine the motive for the killing. But homicide chief Sr. Insp. Dominador Arevalo said it was clearly a case of murder and the gunman had probably been hired.

Per witnesses' accounts to the police, the gunman walked behind Perez along Malvar Street, took out a .38 cal. revolver and fired three shots, hitting her once in the back.

At the time, Perez had supposedly come from the LCS building and was on her way to Taft Avenue, where she usually caught a ride to her home in Quezon City.

Bystanders took Perez to the Philippine General Hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival.

"This is not a robbery-homicide case even if her cell phone was missing. Her bag and valuables were intact," Arevalo said.

Asked whether they would check out the supposed connection to the Estrada plunder case, he said Singson's lawyer had told him that Perez was not a witness in the trial.

Hunt for gunman

He added that in the meantime, the hunt had begun for the gunman, who was described as 25-30 years old, 5'5 to 5'6 tall, slim and dark-skinned. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

One child dies of hunger every 5 seconds, says UN report

ROME—More than eight years after a pledge to halve the number of the world's hungry by 2015 that number has hardly budged—with one child dying of hunger every five seconds—a UN agency said Wednesday.

Though the number of hungry people in developing countries fell in the early 1990s, that trend was later reversed, the Food and Agriculture Organization said in its annual report on world hunger. By 2000-2002 the figure stood at 815 million, just 9 million below the decade-earlier estimate.

The target of cutting the number of undernourished people in the developing world in half by 2015 is still within reach, the Food and Agriculture Organization said, contending that the cost for countries to do that would be more than offset by what they would earn in extra productivity and income.

The report said present levels of hunger cause the death of more than 5 million children every year.

It also presented fighting hunger as a good investment, saying the global costs of achieving the target pale in comparison to the price paid by not acting.

Governments set the goal of halving the undernourished people by 2015 at the UN World Food Summit in 1996.

Wednesday's report said hunger and malnutrition cost around $30 billion in direct medical expenses each year, with estimated indirect costs due to premature death and disability ballooning into hundreds of billions of dollars.

The report said hunger cuts productivity and earnings, reduces school attendance and erodes cognitive abilities.

According to the agency's estimates, an annual increase in funding of $24 billion would be needed to reach the hunger target, but it would reap $120 billion in returns each year.

The report blamed the recent rise in hunger levels largely on a worsening situation in the world's two most populous countries, China and India, both of which had earlier recorded improvements. The number of undernourished people in other developing countries held steady.

All but one of the 16 countries with the highest levels of hunger are in sub-Saharan Africa, where many nations are suffering from food emergencies, the report said.

The report proposed a combination of programs to help boost agricultural productivity and direct food aid to achieve the 2015 target.

It cited a pledge by world leaders in September to raise an additional $50 billion a year to fight hunger as an example of current commitment to tackle the problem.

Hartwig De Haen, of the agency's economic and social department who oversaw the report, said the target was "ambitious but still feasible."

The report drew attention to a second challenge faced by both developed and developing countries—obesity and diet-related diseases, aggravated in part by urban lifestyles.

It also highlighted the domination by supermarket chains of international food sales, blocking out small farmers who do not have the technology to meet the supermarkets' standards. *AP*

Saudi Arabia probes US consulate attack

JEDDAH—Saudi Arabia tried on Tuesday to discover how militants penetrated the elaborate defenses of the US consulate in what al-Qaida said was a reprisal for last month's US assault on Falluja in Iraq.

At least nine people died in Monday's attack in Jeddah, the first against a Western diplomatic mission and first big strike in six months in the world's top oil exporter by militants bent on driving Westerners from the birthplace of Islam.

"We have to find out exactly what gave them the ability to get inside and get through the gate," interior ministry security spokesperson Brig. Gen. Mansour Turki said. "The measures taken were thought to be enough to prevent this."

A statement in the name of al-Qaida's Saudi wing said the "squadron of martyr Abu Annas al-Shami breached the bastion of the Crusaders" in what it called "the blessed Falluja attack."

US-led forces have blasted their way into Falluja to hunt for insurgents and foreign fighters, including those loyal to America's top enemy in Iraq, al-Qaida ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Relatives of Shami, Zarqawi's spiritual mentor, say he was killed in an earlier US strike in Iraq.

The brazen attack against a symbol of the US government in Jeddah showed that Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network still poses a threat despite an 18-month-old crackdown in which leading militants have been killed or captured.

It also highlighted flaws in US and Saudi security measures to protect the mission from al-Qaida, which has repeatedly vowed to strike at US interests in the kingdom.

Officials say the assailants followed an official consulate car into the complex, firing guns and hurling grenades to force entry. No US diplomats were killed but the gunmen burnt the US flag and set fire to buildings.

The Interior Ministry named three attackers killed in the raid, but none was on a list of top wanted al-Qaida suspects.

It said another dead militant had yet to be identified, and it would not reveal the name of a fifth, captured militant.

"The attackers took a chance while a consular car was going in, so the door was open," Turki said. "They threw grenades at the guards at the gate and stormed through. They had no access inside the consulate itself as they were kept to the perimeter."

"It's clear that some of these people have been looking at our procedures," US Ambassador James Oberwetter told reporters. "They clearly understood how our cars entered the compound and in my view had scoped it out. We have no plans to move the consulate," Oberwetter said after a top Saudi National Guard official suggested moving the mission to a less exposed area that would be easier to protect.

Oberwetter said the consulate would reopen in a few days.

Officials said five consulate staff—a Yemeni, a Sudanese, a Filipino, a Pakistani and a Sri Lankan—were also killed. *Reuters*

VIRGIN FLIGHT
British entrepreneur Richard Branson, center, holds a surfboard as he stands on the wing of his Virgin Atlantic Airways plane with models after touching down on its inaugural flight into Australia at Sydney Airport Wednesday. AP

UN nixes calls for Annan's resignation

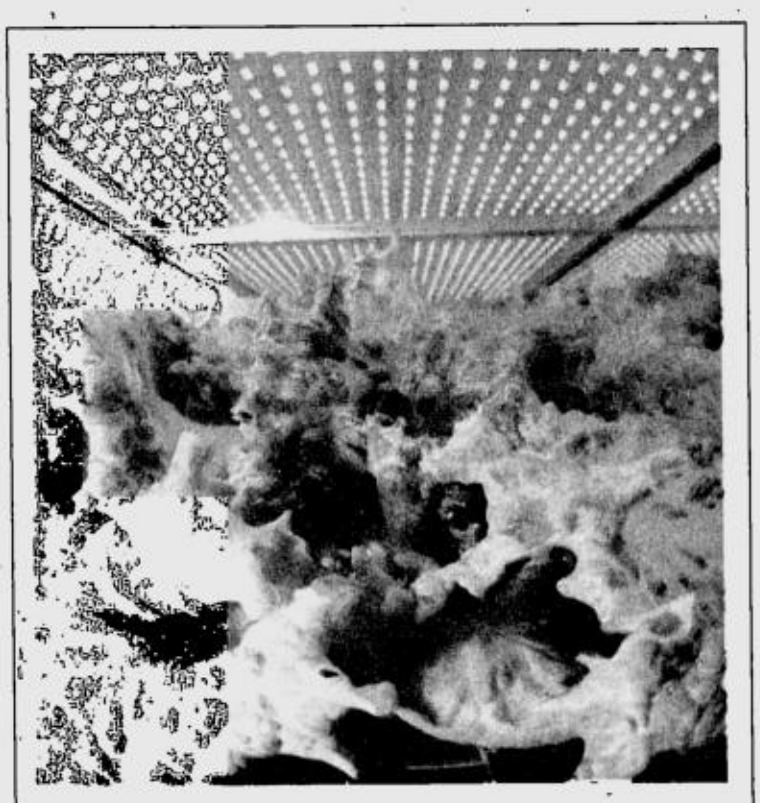
UNITED NATIONS—Security Council members expressed confidence in UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Tuesday, dismissing calls by some US legislators for him to resign over the scandal-plagued oil-for-food program for Iraq.

Even US Ambassador John Danforth said he had "great confidence" in Annan although he repeated the White House view that no one could make a definitive judgment until all the facts were in from investigations into allegations of corruption in the $64-billion program.

During a working luncheon of the 15-nation council, Annan expressed his determination to "carry out the investigation and to make the facts known to everybody," said Algerian Ambassador Abdallah Baali, the council president for December.

"There was certainly a unanimous view that this was the right thing to do," Baali said.

"Nobody in the room called for Kofi Annan's resignation. On the contrary, we all expressed our confidence in the secretary-general," said German Ambassador Gunter Pleuger. *Reuters*



VEGETABLE PLANT
Leaf lettuces grow under red light-emitting diodes at a vegetable factory in the town of Hikari, some 50 km east of Tokyo. The lettuce takes a month to harvest, or three to four times as fast as outdoor versions, and requires only a team of 10-15 workers to handle a load that would normally require 120 farmers. AFP

Bid to hold new Ukraine presidential polls hits snag

KIEV—Efforts to resolve deadlock over restaging a rigged election stalled on Tuesday after Ukraine's outgoing president reported no progress in talks and parliament took no action to change legislation and the constitution.

The row caused further ripples between the West and Russia, which blocked US and European diplomatic efforts for a joint position on the Dec. 26 election re-run. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that amounted to interference in Ukraine's affairs.

The election, rigged by authorities to hand power to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, triggered mass protests in support of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko. The Supreme Court backed Yushchenko's charges of mass fraud and ordered the new vote.

Signs emerged that more than two weeks of turmoil were beginning to dent the economy. The budget deficit jumped to $1 billion from next to nil in the two months preceding the tainted Nov. 21 vote.

The latest mediation effort to reconcile an opposition that has mobilized hundreds of thousands of protesters and President Leonid Kuchma suffered a setback when the veteran leader reversed his stance on concessions within a matter of hours.

Some progress appeared to have been made after marathon "round-table" negotiations brokered by European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, when Kuchma told reporters he would meet two of three opposition demands.

But, in a written statement hours later, he said: "If we are to speak in general terms, no agreement was reached and instead of a statement from the round-table talks, there was simply a statement for the press."

Parliament also adjourned without passing laws agreed with Kuchma as part of an earlier deal to end the stand-off.

In Bulgaria, Russia torpedoed a declaration by 55 member states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (Osce), which called for all parties in Ukraine to cooperate for a fair re-run of the tainted vote.

"Our partners demanded additional formulations which actually meant interference in the negotiation process in Ukraine," Lavrov told a news conference.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell rejected the notion, saying it was "a matter of allowing a country to choose how it wishes to be governed and who it wishes to have as its friends."

In his comments, Kuchma said Yushchenko's Our Ukraine group had stalled talks by insisting on the government's dismissal.

The president and parliament are eyeing each other with suspicion as they pursue different aims to solve the crisis.

The opposition is demanding dismissal of officials which oversaw last month's vote and new laws to prevent rigging in addition to Yanukovich's removal.

Kuchma, who said after Monday's mediation he would agree to the first two demands, wants the opposition to vote for constitutional changes to cut the powers of the next president and give more power to parliament and the prime minister.

He issued a decree later on Tuesday noting Yanukovich's decision to take a "break" to campaign in the new vote and appointing Finance Minister Mykola Azarov as acting premier.

Parliament put off until Wednesday any decision on changes to electoral law or the constitution. Many said Kuchma was blocking attempts at a solution by refusing to sack Yanukovich.

"The man who is supposed to be guarantor of the constitution is ignoring our decision of Dec. 1," said centrist deputy Vasyl Havrylyuk, referring to parliament's vote to dismiss Yanukovich.

Parliament on Wednesday could approve a legislative package approving both new election rules and constitutional changes.

Or it could separate the issues and refuse any reduction in the president's powers—as Yushchenko's allies have advocated in anticipation that their candidate will win on Dec. 26.

"The president and prime minister must merely carry out the laws and constitution. In the situation we have today there is only one guilty party—and that's Kuchma," Petro Poroshenko, a Yushchenko aide, said. *Reuters*

Doctors say Ukraine opposition leader was poisoned–The Times

LONDON—Ukraine's opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned in an attempt to kill him during election campaigning in September, a British daily reported Wednesday, quoting the doctor who oversaw his treatment.

Doctors at Viennas Rudolfinerhaus clinic are within days of identifying the substance that left Yushchenko's face disfigured with cysts and lesions, Dr. Nikolai Korpan was quoted as telling The Times in a telephone interview.

Specialists in Britain, the United States and France had helped to establish that it was a biological agent, a chemical agent or, most likely, a rare poison that struck him down in the run-up to the presidential election, he said.

Doctors needed to examine Yushchenko again at the clinic in Vienna to confirm their diagnosis but were in no doubt that the substance was administered deliberately, he was quoted as saying.

"This is no longer a question for discussion," Korpan said. "We are now sure that we can confirm which substance caused this illness. He received this substance from other people who had a specific aim."

Asked if the aim had been to kill him, Korpan said: "Yes, of course."

Proof that Yushchenko was deliberately poisoned would be a devastating blow for his rival, the prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich, as the two candidates prepare for a repeat of a presidential run-off on Dec. 26, The Times said.

It would raise questions about whether the poisoning was ordered by Yanukovich, his allies, or even the Kremlin, which fears that Yushchenko will take Ukraine out of its sphere of influence by joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, it said.

Yushchenko had said recently that he would soon reveal proof that his opponents had tried to assassinate him, but a spokesperson said he had no plans to travel to Vienna, the newspaper said.

Yushchenko fell ill on Sept. 6 and was rushed to Rudolfinerhaus four days later with severe abdominal pain and lesions on his face and trunk, The Times said.

His liver, pancreas and intestines were swollen and his digestive tract covered in ulcers, but doctors could not explain the symptoms.

Against their advice he went back on the campaign trail after a week, but returned to the clinic two weeks later with back pain.

His Austrian doctors had said previously they had no proof of a criminal poisoning.

Nevertheless his campaign staff have insisted the medical exam revealed that Yushchenko's illness had been caused "by a viral infection and chemical substances that are not usually found in food products." *AFP*

China erects memorial for fallen mice, monkeys

BEIJING—Most countries honor their war dead, but China has erected a monument for a little thought of but altogether more cuddly martyr—the mice, guinea pigs, rabbits and monkeys who gave their lives to science.

Far from basking in the glory of scientific achievement after making strides with a potential SARS vaccine, Chinese researchers had taken time to commemorate the furry martyrs who paved the way for safe human testing, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Yin Weiping, chief of the SARS vaccine development program, said animal testing had been vital in developing the vaccine, which has passed the first stage of human trials.

Accordingly, the Chinese Academy of Medical Science had been graced with a monument to the fallen animals.

It did not give details of the monument or say where it was.

Wuhan University, in the central China province of Hubei, erected a similar monument in September in honor of 38 rhesus monkeys that died in another SARS research program, Xinhua said.

The civet cat, the brown, furry, weasel-like animal that experts say was the source of the SARS epidemic that has killed some 800 since it emerged in 2002, has not been so exalted.

But the creatures received a reprieve of another sort last month when the government banned the cooking and selling of the cats, which are considered a delicacy in the south. *Reuters*

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2 churches in Iraq bombed

MOSUL—Gunmen bombed two churches in the tense Iraqi city of Mosul on Tuesday, fueling fears of ethnic and sectarian unrest ahead of an election next month.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia, a fierce opponent of the war, told Iraq's prime minister in Moscow he feared the country could break up and said planned Jan. 30 elections were unimaginable.

US troops suffered their 1,000th combat death in Iraq on Tuesday when US soldier was killed in Baghdad. The Pentagon also issued figures for a record monthly US death toll in Iraq. It said 136 American soldiers were killed last month. The previous highest was 135 in April.

At least four Iraqi National Guard troopers were also killed in two incidents, one in the capital and another further south.

"I cannot imagine how elections can be organized under a full occupation of the country by foreign troops," Putin told Iraq's US-backed interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

"I also cannot imagine how you on your own will be able to restore the situation in the country and stop it from breaking up."

Allawi reaffirmed the election date of Jan. 30 but raised the prospect of troubled regions taking two or three weeks longer to vote—a proposal that could not immediately be checked with election officials and would break a UN deadline of Jan. 31 for the ballot.

A new CIA assessment, reported by the New York Times, gave a gloomy picture of Iraq's future, seeing further insecurity if the government fails to assert itself and promote prosperity.

No one was killed nor, it appeared, injured, in the bombings in Mosul; smoke billowed from one of the northern city's Armenian churches and one of its oldest Chaldean churches was ablaze and a wall shattered. The attackers were not identified.

In a city of 1.2 million where the two main Sunni Muslim communities, Arabs and Kurds, are already on edge following a rout of US-trained police last month by Sunni Arab insurgents, the latest in a series of attacks on Christians was grist to the mill of those who believe Iraq risks slipping into civil war.

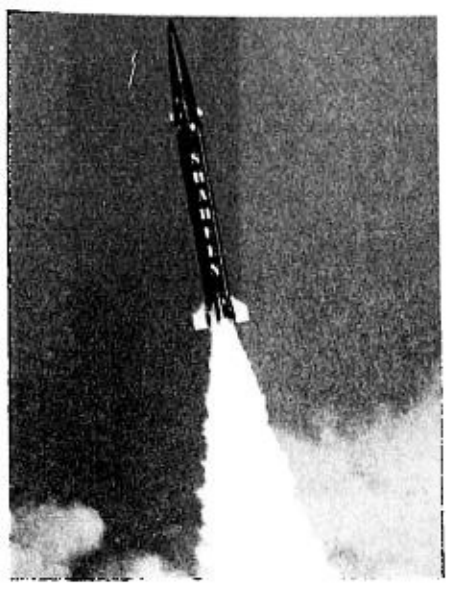
At least 16 Kurdish peshmerga fighters were killed in a suicide car bomb attack in Mosul on Saturday. US troops have turned to the Kurds, largely autonomous in the nearby mountains and with well-trained fighting forces, to help police Mosul.

Sunni Arabs make up about 20 percent of Iraq's population but have dominated the country for decades, including under fellow Sunni Saddam Hussein. With the election set to transfer power to the 60 percent Shiite Muslim majority, many Sunnis are unhappy and some have called for a boycott of the vote.

They argue that violence by insurgents led, apparently by former Saddam loyalists and some foreign-inspired Islamists, will make it impossible to vote safely in much of Sunni northern and western Iraq, including much of Baghdad.

The small Christian community of about 650,000 or some 3 percent of the population has suffered from an upsurge in militant Islam since the fall of Saddam's secular regime. Some have fled or closed down traditional businesses, notably selling liquor, which flourished in Iraq despite a Muslim religious ban.

At least one Christian leader has been quoted recently saying he would form an armed militia to protect the community. *Reuters*



MISSILE TEST
This military handout file picture taken Oct. 14, 2003 shows Pakistan's surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Shaheen-1. Pakistan test-fired Wednesday the ballistic missile which can hit targets up to 700 km away. AFP

US intel reform bill passed

WASHINGTON—The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved landmark legislation to revamp America's intelligence network, clearing the way for major reforms aimed at preventing a repeat of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The historic bill, approved by a vote of 336-75, by and large adopts the recommendations of the Sept. 11 Commission on ways to stop future terror strikes against the United States, and comes after months of meetings, hearings and contentious bargaining.

The White House said President George W. Bush was "very pleased" by the bill's passage and expected the Senate to follow suit.

"The president is very pleased with House passage. He knows that this bill will make America safer," White House spokesperson Trent Duffy said.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins, who led the effort in the US Senate to draft the bill, said the legislation gives America's half-century-old security apparatus a much-needed overhaul.

"This legislation is going to make a real difference to the security of our country," Collins said.

"It is going to improve the quality of intelligence provided to our military and it will help to keep civilians safer here at home," she said.

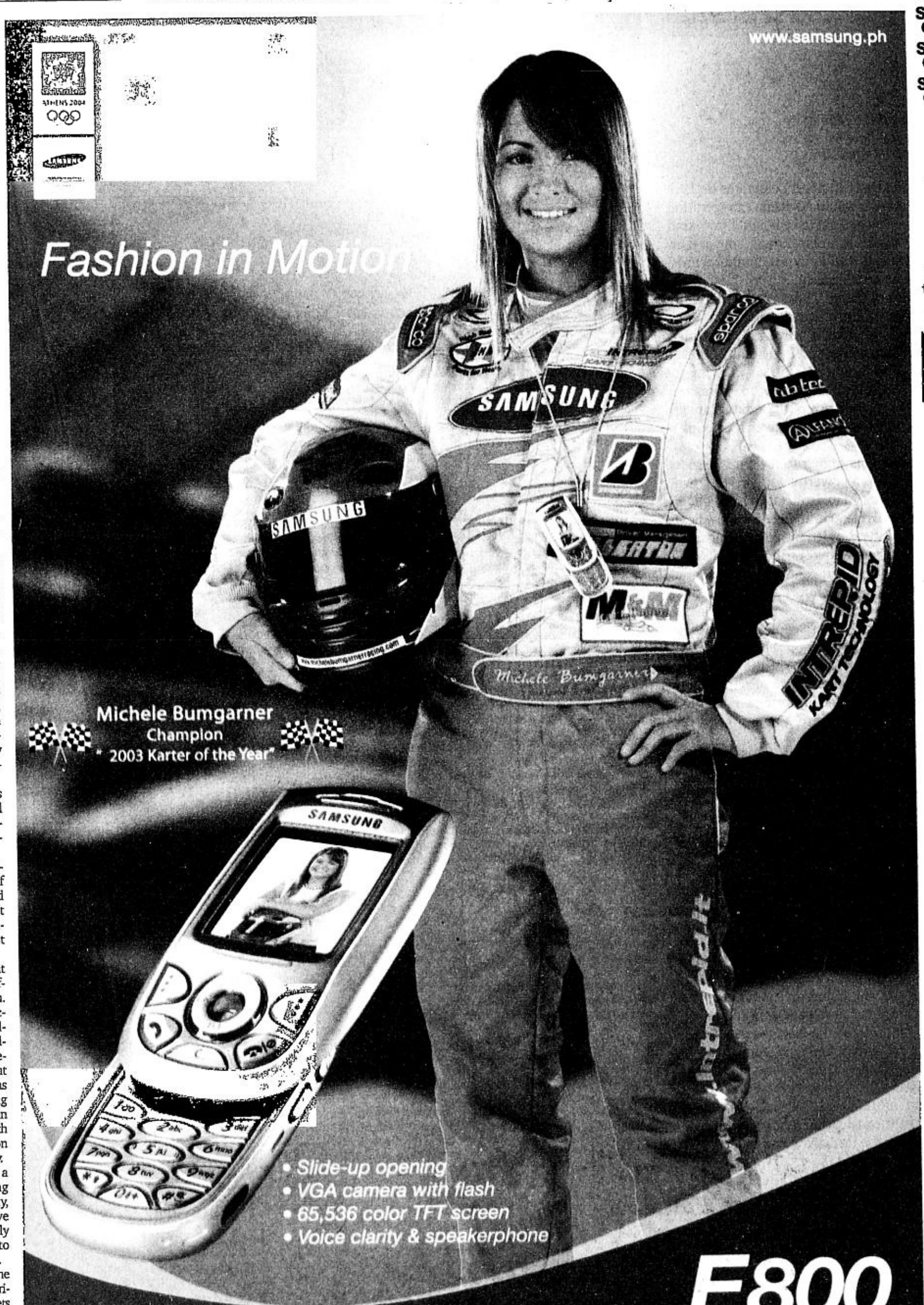
The top Democrat on the reform bill effort, Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, acknowledged that although there was almost universal agreement in Congress that intelligence reform was sorely needed, crafting a bill that lawmakers in both houses and both parties could agree on was anything but easy.

"We have walked a long and winding road to get to this day, but ultimately we've gotten to exactly where we wanted to be," Lieberman said.

He added that the bill "will reform America's intelligence assets so that to the best extent possible we can feel that we are ready to prevent another Sept. 11 from happening."

Members of the Sept. 11 Commission, in a statement after the vote, said they were "deeply grateful" for the bill's passage.

The measure heads to the US Senate for a vote and expected passage Wednesday, and then goes to President Bush's desk for signing into law. *AFP*



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OPINION

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Rocking

In youth, the heart exults and sings,
the pulses leap, the feet have wings.
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

AS the Philippine Daily Inquirer celebrates its 19th anniversary today, it would not be an exaggeration to say that it has turned out to be Longfellow's kind of youth—energetic, dynamic, independent, bold and innovative, eager to explore new horizons. In other words, very much full of life and enthusiasm.

EDITORIAL

This year's anniversary theme, "Rocks at 19" certainly speaks a lot about the INQUIRER. Rock music, after all, is universally identified with the young and is generally upbeat. At its birth, it was considered revolutionary. During its "golden age" in the 1960s, it was viewed as an expression of the young generation's defiance of the establishment, though to this day it is also said to have given the young a sense of cohesion.

The INQUIRER, in a sense, is similar to rock music. In its early, fledgling days, it was a powerful voice in the "revolution" against the corrupt Marcos dictatorship. Following up on its monumental role in bringing down the dictatorship, the paper again was a defiant voice against the plunderous Estrada regime and contributed to its fall. And to this day, to use a cliché, it continues to afflict the comfortable, even as it seeks to comfort the afflicted.

Meanwhile, it has been blazing new trails. To make for faster and easier delivery of INQUIRER copies to its readers in the Visayas and Mindanao, it put up separate printing plants in Cebu and Davao. Then, it led the Philippine press' "incursion" into the Internet. It was also the first in the country to introduce a free paper, aptly called Libre, a tabloid which is circulated in Metro Manila's mass rail transit stations.

The year that is coming to close saw the INQUIRER coming up with more innovations. One is the "Correction Box" where, as the name suggests, factual errors in previous reports are corrected. Another is "In the Know" which provides brief backgrounders on the issues of the day to help readers get a better appreciation of the news. Earlier, in another first, it went into broadcast media with "Super!" at 103.5 K-Lite and InqTV on ABC-5.

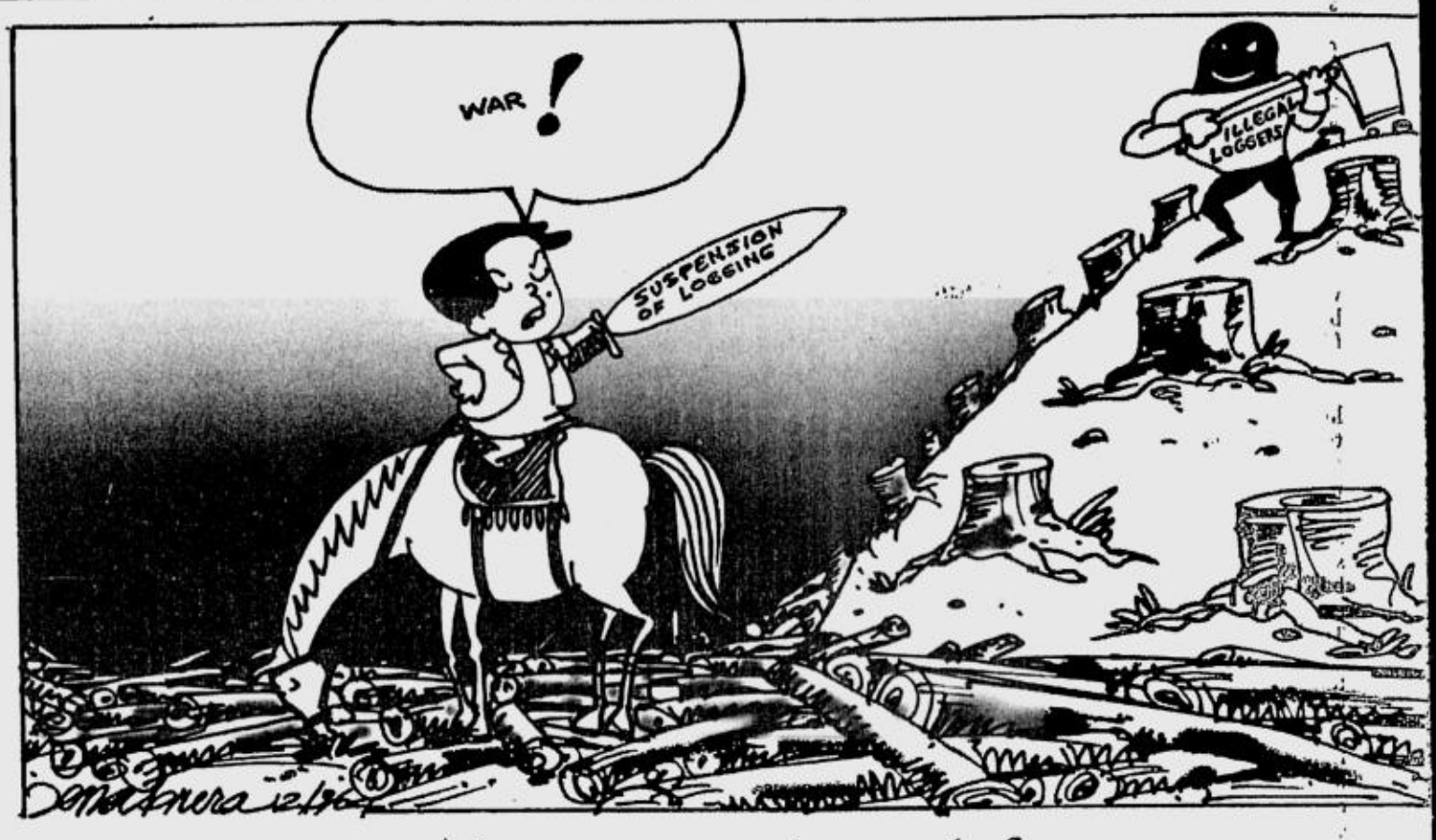
There have been other bold moves that show more than just youthful dynamism on the part of this paper. These were made not so much to maintain the newspaper's position as a market leader, which comes almost naturally with the quality of service it provides and which is reflected by its position at the top among the nation's broadsheets. They were made as part of a continuing, all-around effort to live faithfully by the tenets of the journalistic profession, improve service and reach out to a larger audience—here and abroad—especially the youth. This is in line with its mission "as a world-class processor and provider of news and information ... serving as a catalyst of social progress." At the same time, these moves keep the INQUIRER in step with the fast advancing information-communication technology.

No, the INQUIRER is making today's Filipino youth a special audience not because they belong to the same generation. The INQUIRER subscribes to the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

But the way things look, our present generation of leaders doesn't offer much promise about building the future for our youth. Still it is not too late to build our youth for the future. And in this task, the INQUIRER will keep doing its share.

As the youth of today become adults of tomorrow, they will eventually take on the mantle of leadership in this country—in politics, business, religion and every field of human endeavor. The INQUIRER, too, will inevitably grow in age, but we will strive not to grow old. For as Samuel Ullman said: "Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul."

Yes, we are committed to keeping our ideals and our enthusiasm.



When generals go daft

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"HE'S mad is he? Then, I wish he'd bite some other of my generals," George II reportedly snapped when told that Gen. James Wolfe had gone daft.

That's also the reaction surging among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations toward Myanmar's junta for stalling, yet again, on restoring freedoms.

Myanmar's caudillos dance an "incorrigible one-step forward, two-steps backwards foxtrot," Malaysian Member of Parliament Lim Kit Siang told legislators from seven Asean countries in Kuala Lumpur. The shuffle blocks the release of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, journalists and other detainees.

Some parliamentarians are now pressing their governments to object when Yangon assumes the rotating chairmanship of Asean in 2006. The generals' "seven-step road map" to democracy is fake.

Myanmar today is "the largest prison for journalists in Asia," the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders says in a new report documenting the plight of 18 detained journalists.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in the 1990 general election. But the military never allowed parliament to convene, and unleashed waves of arrests. Yet, Suu Kyi continues to draw widespread support at home and abroad.

The stakes for the press are high. Offending the regime means prison. The 72-year-old journalist Win Tin has been detained for 14 years now.

"Torture is commonplace and some journalists suffer from serious mental disorders resulting from long isolation," Reporters Without Borders says. Newsmen have received long sentences for articles deemed "hostile to the state," talking with foreign journalists, even "owning undeclared video cameras"—an eerie clone of the Marcos regime's order to register mimeograph machines.

Yangon's daily newspapers are government-run outlets for turgid propaganda. The military and their families control most publications. As in our "New Society," censorship is clamped on. Censors blue-pencil words such as "democracy," "corruption" or "education."

To beat the censors, "the trick is in the presentation," Thint Bawa (Your Life) editor U Tin Maung Than told The New York Times' Seth Mydans. The 47-year-old doctor-turned-writer "played the game hard, bobbing and weaving, winking and nudging, honing his metaphors, comparisons and historical references until it all became too much and he fled from Myanmar for safety."

It's a game played by all independent-minded writers in dictatorships from the Philippines of Marcos to Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran and today's Myanmar: writer versus censor, says Mydan's analytical feature titled, "Burmese Editor's Code: Winks And Little Hints."

In repressive states, writing under censorship is an art form. Many of their rules are universal. Write only upbeat articles or "sunshine news." Thus, many confine themselves to gossip, sports and lifestyle features. Praise the regime. That guarantees publication. It's also safer.

Direct criticism is taboo. Even factual reports on drought or poor crop yields are forbidden. These could arouse fears of price increases. You cannot knock those in power. Imelda and the First Family, for example, could only be accorded fulsome hosannas.

A few in Myanmar, as in martial law Philippines, push against the boundaries of what's acceptable. "You cannot blame," Tin said. "You have to give hints that you are being critical, that you are talking about the current system. The hints are in your choice of words, your tones, your composition. You use words with double meaning. The challenge is to get through to those keen readers without tipping off the censors."

He wrote about flag burning in the United States, ostensibly to criticize it but, between the lines, to give a glimpse of freedom.

Still the government remains paranoid about Suu Kyi's drawing power. Favorable references in the press to the opposition leader are "clearly forbidden." It's verboten to write about female heads of state. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Corazon Aquino, Megawati Sukarnoputri, Indira Gandhi or Margaret Thatcher would be blacked out.

Given the muzzled press, the pressure for reform is coming from outside. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, for example, said that Suu Kyi and other political prisoners must be included in the current spate of releases involving more than 9,000 prisoners. Asean foreign ministers, meeting in Phnom Penh last July also pressed for the release.

President Arroyo and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra were reported to have reminded Myanmar Prime Minister Soe Win at the Laos Asean summit of still unfulfilled pledges. Now, the parliamentarians are weighing in.

Whether these pressures will cause the hardline generals, like Soe Win, to unbend, remain to be seen. Less than 40 political detainees, or one percent, were among those freed to impress Asean heads of state meeting in Vientiane.

Then President Fidel V. Ramos argued for Myanmar's acceptance by Asean. He insisted that Asean credentials would restrain the junta from taking even more repressive measures. Both national and regional interests, he claimed, were served by having Myanmar in instead of "peeing from the outside." The track record says otherwise.

"As for being a general, well, at the age of four, with paper hats and wooden swords, we're all generals," the actor Peter Ustinov once said, adding: "Only some of us never grow out of it."

As Yangon shows, generals who never mature can go daft. They can impoverish a once-rich nation and crucify a gentle people, as our own "Rolex 12" did.

* * *

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Correction

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAVE to make a correction. The story that came out in the news about Fr. Charlito Colendres wasn't exactly accurate. The truth is far richer and more dramatic. It takes nothing away from Father Cha's heroism. It only points to the heroism of a lesser known figure, who was his companion, a convent assistant named Dionisio Cadungog.

Dionisio, a strapping youth born to poor folk and used to hard work, told this version of what happened during the last night of Father Cha's wake at Mt. Carmel last Monday.

Before night fell on Nov. 29, Father Cha and he hurried to Barangay Canugao. A fierce wind was already blowing then, accompanied by driving rain, which foretold of dire things to come. Father Cha worried about Barangay Canugao because it was a low-lying area which easily flooded. And by the looks of things, it wasn't going to be an ordinary storm. Before they left, Father Cha told Dionisio half-jokingly, "Eat your fill, we are going to have a long, long night."

It was 7 p.m. when they got to the barangay, the darkness broken only by shafts of light from fluorescent and kerosene lamps through windows. They banged on the doors of the houses and asked the people to board a couple of jeepneys and a 10-wheeler truck. The barangay was in grave danger, they said, the folk had to get to safer ground. It took a while to convince the people to go, many of them saying that if they left, they would die, too. They would have nothing to live on.

But by dint of pleading and cajoling, they finally persuaded the folk to pack up. While people were rushing to and from their houses to fish out their things, Dionisio noticed an infant who seemed to have been lost. He picked up the child and delivered it to a woman on one of the jeepneys, charging her with its care until its mother came along. When they were finally done, they lumbered on toward Infanta.

Shortly before they got there, they found their way blocked by rocks and mud and debris. But it was high ground, so they decided to camp at the sitio nearest there.

Not so Father Cha. He worried no end about kin who had come to visit him and whom he had left behind in Infanta. He could see the lights of the convent in the distance, which made the compulsion to reach it greater. He asked the sturdier men in their group if they would accompany him through the fields and make their way to Infanta by foot. By then the fields were already covered by water. The men replied that they were good swimmers but they would not risk wading through the fields in the dark. Father Cha thought about it, and decided to walk alone.

When he was but a few meters gone, Dionisio ran after him. *Bahala na,* he thought, but he would not leave the priest alone. Father Cha had brought along a 30-meter rope and they tied themselves to it so they wouldn't get separated. They hadn't gotten far when the water rose, climbing up to their chests with startling rapidity. It was no longer possible to go forward, but by then it was too late to turn back. They tied the other end of the rope to the wires of an electrical post that had toppled over and decided to wait for light or for the waters to ebb, whichever came first.

Then without warning, they heard a thunderous roar and before they knew it, a column of water fell on them. And along with the water, mud, debris and logs. Piles and piles of logs, raining on them with the force of hurled missiles. Instinctively, Dionisio, who was in front, tried to cover Father Cha with his body. But a log hit him in the ribs and as he pitched forward another grazed him in the head. While his head spun, he heard Father Cha cry out, "Save yourself!" And then he lost consciousness.

Dionisio woke up hours later imagining himself dead and floating with a bloated belly. His belly certainly gave that sensation. He realized he was alive only when he retched mud again and again. He was holding on to a log and standing on water that reached up to his neck. He tugged at the rope but felt no one there. He shouted Father Cha's name, but got no response. He was alone. Later, they would find Father Cha's body floating underneath the logs.

Dionisio loosed himself from the rope around his waist, and summoning whatever remained of his strength swam to a nearby coconut tree. He clung to it, and waited for daylight and salvation or a new avalanche of mud and water and death, whichever came first, too. He prayed. He asked forgiveness for his sins and prepared to meet his fate.

And then he felt a strange sensation. He lost all sense of fear. He felt a calm descend on him. As he pondered his fate amid the buzzing in his ears and the fuzziness in his brain, he saw things with a shaft of clarity. Whatever happened to him now, he thought, his life had been worth something. Father Cha and he had saved more than a hundred lives the night before. If they hadn't gotten the folk of Barangay Canugao to leave for higher ground, those folk would now be in the same position he and Father Cha were.

His mind suddenly drifted to the lost infant he had spotted in the barangay, and wondered if its mother ever found it. He dozed off again.

When he woke up, a gray light was peeping in the east, and the water was almost gone.

* * *

We're putting up a small benefit concert for the victims of the storms on Dec. 20 at Conspiracy Café on Visayas Avenue. Cooky Chua and Ru Villena have offered to give up their December slot at Conspiracy and play. Other artists who have volunteered their services are (as of this writing): Bayang Barrios, Cynthia Alexander, Gary Granada, Joey Ayala, Mon David, Noel Cabangon, Noli Aurillo, Susan Fernandez. I expect more to follow; I haven't gotten in touch with the others yet. Gate is P100. But donations and pledges will be more than welcome.

Please come. Please help.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Let's not overreact on logging issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AUSTRALIAN businessman Peter Wallace, who runs the Wallace Business Forum, met with the media yesterday to disclose the results of WBF's annual survey of multinationals doing business in the Philippines. This column will present the results over the next few days.

One relevant query raised by the media at that forum was about the logging situation here, following the recent massive floods and and the swath of death and destruction wrought by an avalanche of logs from the mountains, which were probably illegally cut. Wallace was asked how other countries dealt with logging while at the same time protecting the environment.

Wallace noted that New Zealand runs one of the biggest and most successful wood-processing industries in the world, and yet its forests are well-protected. The key, he stressed, is responsible logging: New Zealand is very careful to enforce the law and reforests more than it can cut.

* * *

There seems to be an overreaction by legislators and other sectors to the recent tragedy, to the point of reviving the old debate between a total and selective log ban. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has batted anew for total log ban, a measure that has been pending in Congress since the late 1980s. But Wallace rightly stressed that this won't be the answer. A total ban would jack up the price of wood, making it even more attractive to go into illegal logging. Then more of our forests would disappear.

I recall that former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was asked some years back why he didn't impose a total log ban in his country. His reply was that it would be pitiful for the poor people if they were to lose their livelihood. As Mahathir rightly saw it, the solution is not a total log ban, but to impose very strictly the rules on logging. This means prohibiting the cutting of trees in banned areas such as the watersheds and riverbanks up to 5 kilometers inland, and punishing those who do so, without fear or favor, as well as those who buy and sell illegally cut logs. In addition, reforestation ought to be strictly carried out by those with legitimate timber licenses, under pain of cancellation of their licenses.

* * *

A dinner hosted last Saturday by President Macapagal-Arroyo at her Forbes Park home drew officials of the telecom companies, lawmakers like Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Ralph Recto and Mar Roxas and Representatives Joey Salceda, Exequiel Javier and Jesli Lapus (who chairs the House ways and means committee that's sponsoring the proposed tax on telecom franchise), and Cabinet finance officials. The purpose was to persuade telecom officials to help ease the country's fiscal problem by shouldering part of the tax burden. But the telecom people balked at the idea of being taxed simply because they're making profits. They argued that they would be paying P28 billion in taxes next year, P10 billion more than this year, and that they have been taking risks all these years, but it was only since 2000 that they began to make money on their investments.

* * *

The telecom people persuaded the administration to instead push for a 2-percent across-the-board increase in the current 10-percent value-added tax as an alternative revenue measure. By then Lapus was very discomfited as he saw his proposal for a franchise tax crumble.

Sen. Joker Arroyo is right. There should have been some softening up of the telecom officials before that dinner, so that GMA would have been spared the embarrassment of being turned down by them. In military parlance, that would be part of the so-called complete staff report.

A more thorough processing of ideas and proposals seems to be where the administration often falls short. At times it's given to shooting from the hip and then back-tracking. For instance, I hope it will process the proposal for a total log ban well and not cave in to kibitzers so readily, as well as the expected entry of foreign mining capital.

* * *

A look at the increased VAT measure shows that at the current 10 percent rate, the revenue collection amounts to P166 billion. An addition of 2 percent will bring in P30 billion more. But if the VAT exemption for professionals such as the lawyers and doctors, as well as electric cooperatives and fuel prices, is removed, this is estimated to bring in another P8.5 billion.

However, increasing the VAT is expected to raise howls from various sectors as it will hit everyone, unlike the telecom franchise tax which will only tax the telecom firms' "windfall profits." By the way, these firms resent that term since it is usually taken to mean profits from quick investments, which, they insist, is not the case with them.

* * *

Senate President Drilon assures the media that the Senate version of the "sin taxes" bill that will be ready by next week will be "very good." The goal of Congress' rush (finally!) to pass two or three revenue measures is to convince various international credit-rating agencies that the government is dead serious in tackling its fiscal problem, and that it does not deserve a downgrade of its credit standing. The decision of Fitch Ratings not to downgrade RP's credit rating and instead merely change its outlook on RP from "stable" to "negative" is being received with some elation. Administration officials read it as a sign that these rating agencies are convinced about reforms here.

But as the Senate chief fumed before the media yesterday, news reports saying that the Filipino-Australian firm that recently purchased Masinloc power plant from Napocor for $561 million is woefully under-capitalized, do not win confidence for the administration. The perception could be that some window-dressing is going on to avoid a disastrous downgrade in our credit rating.

Books in memory of trees

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IF you read the following excerpt and you are not awed and moved to action and meditation, you must not be a child of Earth.

"The Spaniards called her Mother Mountain, this vast range stretching down the northeastern flank of the island of Luzon like the heaving backs of massive whales. Through the years, the trees and slopes of the Sierra Madre, acting like giant windbreaks, broke the backs of tropical cyclones swirling in from the West Pacific. She was also a weather maker. Her peaks and lonely upland valleys, blanketed with great sweeps of rain forest, were magnets for moisture, constantly building towering stacks of cumulus clouds, and rain. Bringing precious water to the rivers and rice fields of the thirsty lowlands. Her twisted branches and massive buttressed roots sheltered and nourished more plants and animals than anywhere else in Luzon. This intricate food chain, believed to have more components and interactive links than any other habitat on the surface of the earth, kept the forest alive...After thousands and thousands of years, the gentle, wandering Dumagats have found no other home like this endless tract of green, where time has pooled for generations."

That, my dear reader, is the brief introduction of the amazing book "The Last Great Forest: Luzon's Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park" (Bookmark, 2000) by Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan who now heads the World Wildlife Fund in the Philippines. The book is wildly designed, by the way, and handy too, and those not keen on reading might just pause to dig into it.

Farmers used to only reading the signs on the soil liked the book so that I had to buy a few more copies a couple of years ago. How many of our politicians who gather no life-giving moss on their mouths have read this?

The book is a forest of information, illustrations and colored photographs, and your heart will swell with pride after learning that we have, in our bosom, an Eden so alive. You'd worry too about its future, given the greed of this generation. In fact, the first chapter is titled "The Philippines: A Century of Deforestation."

After a heart-stopping introduction, the book segues into what this amazing place is all about. Ocean and rainforest within kissing distance of each other, people and wildlife living side by side, enriching each other and the wondrous web of life that makes this planet work. I wouldn't have minded the inclusion of the unseen elementals—nymphs, fairies and dwarves—to complete the picture.

I heard the grandeur of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor and a Lucio San Pedro cantata the first time I went over the book. Okay, maybe Enya's tantalizing "In Memory of Trees" for some. I'm not being facetious when I say that, but indeed, my senses go on overdrive when I know that the printed word is also alive to tell the world. But is anyone up there in the glass-and-chrome towers with hardwood furniture listening, and doing something?

My friend Marites Vitug's earth-shaking book "Power from the Forest: The Politics of Logging" (Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, 1993) was an award-winning opus that was supposed to alert everyone to the politicians' involvement in the destruction of our forest preserve. The first chapter has, in fact, a photo of the coffin of a victim of the 1991 Ormoc mudslide that killed more than 5,000 people. Chapter 6, "The Senate's Wake-up Call" is about the debate on a total or a selective log ban. It was Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who authored the bill calling for the 25-year total ban with Sen. Orlando Mercado arguing in its favor and Sen. Heherson Alvarez for selective. Read about how the battle was lost or won depending on which side you are.

"Loggers in Congress: Making Concessions" shows why, in a conservative setting such as Congress, a bill that would ban commercial logging and hurt the interests of some of its members would not progress.

And who are the defenders and the raiders? "The insurgency war had bred new logging interests," the book says, "the rebels and the military who have made the forests their battleground and their sources of income." *Aray.*

"But amid this gloomy foreboding, there are shafts of light. The indigenous peoples and rural folk who have lived in or around these forests are starting to stir as well as a growing number of non-government organizations and concerned individuals."

I am writing about these forest-bred books in the wake of the killer disaster that buried towns and families under water, mud, rocks and logs unleashed by the angry mountains last week.

A newly elected senator said on TV that she has been alone in her crusade these past six or so years. I turned off the TV. Quipped an editor: "*Ang kapal!*" What did she make of those who lost their lives—journalists and Church people included—in the past 15 years while exposing the raiders of the forests?

Once in his or her life, a person should go on retreat to a rainforest to listen to it throb and drink of its juices. I've been in one—thick, damp and bewildering—where one could be helpless if not for those who knew the terrain. There time stood still while my heart raced upon beholding the charm of the smallest wildlife and the majesty of trees.

* * *

Scholasticans and friends! Come to a dinner-show featuring Ryan Cayabyab and his wife Emmy's high school class of 1979 at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. Alumna Tina Monson-Palma will emcee. This is for the school and priory's archives-museum and in preparation for the college's 2006 centennial. Call 0918-9220566 or 0917-8125277.

Unwitting ally of globalization

(*Conclusion*)

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

WHEN labor agitation eliminates more jobs than it protects, it drives away workers from its ranks and makes the employed share the fears of their exploiters. Germany's labor movement is losing membership today as strikes get checkmated by the ability of workers in neighboring countries to absorb the high-paying jobs of the Germans.

What happens in Europe is happening here, and worse: companies here cannot migrate abroad (though their owners' bank accounts may end up overseas), so they shut down. The result is that the Left has carved out a niche for itself in relatively dead-end occupations such as the civil service, but it cannot attract (and thus, work for) Filipinos working abroad, or in call centers and other flourishing occupations.

The Left does have a point in criticizing the lack of industrialization in the country, because only industrialization could have resulted in the creation of a strong middle class, and enough productive employment to create wealth on a sufficient scale to be distributed. However the Left has never been interested in fostering a middle class, which tends to cling to such un-socialist concepts as property and entrepreneurship. Neither has the Left been interested in actually supporting industry in the capitalist sense nor in any sort of deal involving trading some rights today so that sufficient economic progress can ensure a better tomorrow.

This is what's missing from our Left, and which made possible the supremacy of socialism in much of the industrialized, non-communist world: trading near-term comfort for building a flourishing economy, which permits a more equitable society later on.

R. Sionil Jose recently castigated Filipino communists by saying in effect that the day the Left turned to Maoist China was the day it doomed its revolution, due to the racist distrust of the majority of Filipinos for the Chinese and China as a power. He might have added that a Filipino communist singing Mao's praises is no different from a Filipino politician bootlicking in Washington, D.C.

The leftist who prevents development by agitating squatters creates a mendicancy every bit as corrosive and great as the Filipino politician giving away public land—communal property—which turns it into private property for nothing. The only winner, between the politician giving away a finite amount of public land, and the leftist agitating the new residents of that land to resist development, is the entrepreneurial squatter who becomes a squatter landlord, profiting from generations of new squatters while he and his family become middle class.

The list of losers, on the other hand, is massive. There's the public, which loses more and more land supposedly for community use, and which must endure the resulting sprawl and lack of development that come from such giveaways. There are the squatters, who think receiving something for nothing such as land that's not theirs simply because they want it, is possible—and then get increasingly despondent when they realize life doesn't work according to the magical formulas of the politicians who wreck development plans by gladly giving away public land. By receiving land as a politician's gift, they can live with voting for the politicians in exchange and waiting for seasonal dole-outs.

The corresponding erosion of personal initiative and the work ethic is colossal and complete. Before the 1950s, giving land to the landless was based on the premise that they would pay on installment so they'd earn title to the land. While wily lawyers and landowners discredited this policy, instead of making it work, it was replaced with outright gifts.

And so even the politicians end up suffering, unable to implement genuine development, or impose political will, because they are now held hostage by a mendicant population that is coming to realize it can vote for show-biz imbeciles who won't even bother to try to change things.

Then there are the owners, who cannot make use of their land as it's occupied by more squatters. They either have to sell at a loss (depriving them of a commensurate chance to invest in businesses that might foster development) or undergo expropriation. This convinces them of the sensibleness of capital flight or outright emigration.

Indeed, if I am harsh when it comes to the Left, it's because in so many ways it duplicates and magnifies the opportunism and selfishness it criticizes in government and the private sector. Politically it is simply the most organized of the parties-for-hire, ensuring its electoral successes according to the time-dishonored principle of guns, goons and gold (while mainstream politicians are adapting to the new political strategy of ads, jingles and films, which at least spreads money around and kills no one). In education, the bailiwicks of the Left are losing talent and competitive advantages because of a stubborn demand for state subsidies instead of developing the assets its institutions are lavishly endowed with, namely land. In the environment, it contributes to the despoiling of the land by having a hand in logging extortion rackets, and by denouncing mining investment without offering alternatives (except, perhaps, the dream of future mining activities with socialist characteristics: meaning the ruthless exploitation of mineral resources under a future People's Republic of the Philippines, whether or not the local and marginalized communities of the future agree). It denounces globalization while conveniently ignoring the contributions of a globalized population and forgetting that its contributions to environmental destruction make emigration abroad all the more essential for survival.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

On streets of gold

YOUNG BLOOD

Louise Lane Gutierrez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I FELT my body become one with the bed. I was so tired that when my cell phone rang, I rejected the call.

It was my sister. Calling me three times. Waking me up three times. Disturbing my sleep three times. I rejected her call three times. I groaned. She most probably wanted something. She probably wanted to ask me if I took her white blouse or whether she could borrow the player or something trivial. Options: Answer, Loudspeaker, Reject. I turned off my phone and went to dreamland.

I woke up three hours later. I decided not to call back. Maybe later after the gym. I do body combat. Muay thai is hard. All that silly jumping. Instructor is perky, like some cheerleader on designer drugs.

I came home, switched the cell phone on and it rang immediately.

"Hello!" It was my sister's voice.

"What's up?" I asked.

"You know Malaika?"

Of course, I know her, I wanted to shout. She is one of my close friends in church.

Two years ago she had this sickness which I feared would be bad. Some disease related to lupus. But her doctors didn't agree with my diagnosis. I feared back then that she had systemic sclerosis, but her doctors said it was milder.

Systemic sclerosis is usually fatal; most patients die two to three years after its onset. The diagnosis wasn't really clear because she didn't have the money for all those stupid laboratory tests.

Last time we talked, she had just come out of the hospital, where she was treated for a lung disease. I knew then that my diagnosis was accurate. But should I tell her that? I knew she knew what I feared.

"So what about Malaika?" I asked

"She just died."

Silence. And more silence.

"What? You are kidding me."

My sister told me she had collapsed in her house earlier and when she reached the hospital she couldn't be revived.

My head spun and my surroundings whirled. I couldn't believe this. I expected this, but didn't really believe it would happen.

I said, "Okay," and put down the phone.

It is unfair. Holding the hands of strangers as they go through some terrible disease makes me nauseous. Why can't I hold the hands of the ones I love? Why can't I be there for them?

Tears. Regrets.

The path I have chosen mandates that I help the faceless, the nameless, embrace those whose eyes I cannot recall, whose hearts haven't touched mine, and pray for the hands of God to continually cover those whom I love but cannot touch.

It will always be this way.

I open the good book and read about love, something about good Samaritans and loving strangers. I can only hope she was handled with love by strangers, too.

I see death all the time. Yet when death comes so close to me, I still shudder.

I lie back and think about everything. Malaika once thanked me for being such a blessing in her life. What role I played, why I was given the honor of blessing her, still haunts me. I just lost a good friend. I couldn't spend more time with her anymore. Fulfilling the promise to "get together some time" will have to wait.

We will meet again, Malaika. We will drink coffee someday and laugh. On streets of gold where you will no longer have to wear gloves because your fingers always feel pain when exposed to cold.

Over the finest cakes and food, we will laugh. And you can laugh all you want because when we meet again, laughing will not make your chest hurt, will not make you feel breathless. You will not cry anymore. No more pain. No more tears.

I will see that day happen.

For now, I will carry a smile, knowing I've gained an angel. And I know that you no longer feel pain and that you are not being loved by some nameless stranger but by a friend who loved you and me so much He died on the cross for us. I know that our Savior is holding you now, showing you around.

Say hi to my uncle there. And to my grandfather. And to my friend Ed. Tell them I just came back from limbo and that I promise to be a blessing to strangers just as some strangers were a blessing to you.

We fought the good fight, huh? You ran the good race. I still have to run the race set before me. You have just finished yours. Wait for me at the sidelines. Mine may take a few more decades to finish.

Someday we will laugh. No more goodbyes. No more tears. Someday. But not for now. I still have something to do here.

Louise Lane Gutierrez, 24, is a medical intern at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital.

IN THE NEWS

Secretary Michael Defensor

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Justice delayed by holidays

FOLLOWING a practice of her administration to promote domestic tourism, President Macapagal-Arroyo recently declared a legal holiday, Nov. 30, 2004 as a working day while making Nov. 29, 2004 a non-working day.

To ordinary citizens, the substitution may be insignificant—after all, the business on the working day can easily be addressed on the holiday-turned-working-day. To practicing lawyers and their clients, however, it means justice irretrievably delayed.

It may have gone generally unnoticed, but it is common practice among the courts of law, including quasi-judicial bodies, to space the hearings of cases by months. For example, a case scheduled in November 2004 would be set for next hearing in February or March 2005 or even much later. As a consequence of the declaration of Nov. 29, 2004 as a non-working day, the cases scheduled for hearing that day had to be postponed to February or March 2005 or thereafter. The new schedule—considering this was unilaterally chosen by the court, that is, without prior consultation with the calendar of lawyers—would be subject to the availability of the lawyers and their clients. If the affected lawyer had committed the date for another case, a further postponement would be inevitable.

Other equally undesirable situations might have also resulted from the "holiday substitution"—say, a witness coming all the way from abroad to testify on that day. Just think of the airline tickets restricted to a short period of validity and subjected to stiff re-booking fees. Worse, he might have applied for a vacation leave timed with the hearing, and this is not to mention collateral matters like hotel bookings that carry prohibitive cancellation charges. And it is not remote that his relatives have cancelled their other activities to make time for him.

To be sure, presidential prerogatives can never be outlawed. But the executive department can always look ahead—far, far ahead—and not act only at the eleventh hour. This would immeasurably guide courts in scheduling hearings. That way, we could spare the litigants and other affected parties from unnecessary suffering and inconvenience.

Better still, I suggest that an administrative policy be adopted making public holidays falling in the middle of the week working days; but the Monday immediately preceding or the Friday immediately following should be converted into non-working days. I also propose that, in the absence of such policy, the Supreme Court ordain that cases set on a day declared as a non-working day be automatically reset to the "substituted" holiday. These are little remedial measures that will go a long way in reassuring litigants and lawyers of a judicial system ever mindful of the truism that justice delayed is justice denied.

—EFREN C. CARAG,
4 Lataña St.,
Tahanan Village,
Parañaque City

Reforestation a political cliché

ONCE logging destroys our forest covers, root systems give way and loosen the top soil, allowing rain water to easily cascade to lower grounds where humans live. Logging is the root cause of flash floods.

But logging cannot exist without the knowledge and consent of our political leaders. We even elect big-time loggers to Congress like the Antoninos, Almendrases and Dees. Either by commission or omission, politicians (including mayors and governors), provincial police commanders, forest rangers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the logging concessionaires are all equally responsible for wanton and illegal logging in our country and, ultimately, for the death and destruction caused by flash floods.

Our tropical forests, our God-given natural wealth, can give us long-term economic benefits (e.g., eco-tourism) instead of short-term logging, a one-shot deal that only benefits a few. Reforestation is a convenient cliché of loggers. But it takes over 100 years to just approximate the lush growth of our original tropical forests.

Why can't our President—with the vast powers she holds—and our congressional leaders focus on the root cause of flash floods and the long-term benefits of environmental stewardship?

—FRUCTUOSO SUZARA,
executive director,
Social Policy Advocacy & Research Consultants,
15 Charleyville,
White Plains, Quezon City

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Enrile's 'sin tax' is superior

I AGREE with what Solita Monsod said in her column titled, "A superior sin tax bill." (PDI, 11/20/04) The Senate can redeem itself should it approve the sin tax bill proposed by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. The bill would definitely benefit Philippine society. As pointed out, the bill mandates a uniform specific tax rate for all cigarettes. This would surely prevent cigarette companies from evading taxes.

All cigarettes have the same effect on people's health. Therefore, smoking, regardless of the brand of cigarette in use, should be discouraged in equal degrees. So why should there be different tax rates? Another favorable feature of the bill is that the tax rate would automatically adjust to the inflation rate every two years. Also, the Enrile bill, if approved, can help the local tobacco industry because imported cigarettes will be imposed a higher tax rate.

But what I like most about the proposed bill is that 5 percent of the additional tax revenue of P18 billion it is expected to generate in 2005 will be divided equally among the Lung Center, Heart Center and National Kidney Institute.

The bill promises many benefits for our country, but let's not forget that if passed into law, its successful implementation is still up to government efficiency.

—CLARISA FRANCESCA ARDA,
clarisa_arda@yahoo.com

Filipinos in Afghanistan on release of UN workers

THE FILIPINO community in Afghanistan, which has at present 359 registered members, joins the peace-loving community of the world in celebrating the release of Angelito Nayan, Annetta Flanigan and Shqipe Hebibi from captivity. This is a triumph of peace over terrorism and gives us new hope for the rehabilitation and development in Afghanistan.

We wish to thank both the Philippine and Afghanistan governments and the United Nations for their effective handling of the situation. We salute the team of Undersecretary Jose Brillantes of the Department of Foreign Affairs for its hard and efficient work; most importantly, for taking time to listen to the concerns of the Filipinos here, especially the rumored ban on the travel of Filipinos to Afghanistan.

We also commend the people of Afghanistan for being with us in this moment of trial and for raising the morale and hope of Angelito and company while they were in captivity. We also commend the Filipino nation, here and all over the world, which prayed and monitored the developments of this case. The media, most especially Reuters and ABS-CBN, including GMA 7, played an important role in ways that we cannot elaborate, and we also thank them a lot.

Most importantly, we commend Angelito, Annetta and Shqipe for their courage and faith. We will continue to pray that their lives return to normal as soon as possible, and that the emotional wounds inflicted by this experience heal as swiftly, making them better persons. We shall remain a community for Angelito, whether he chooses to return here or stay elsewhere.

We continue to call on the DFA to institutionalize its presence in Afghanistan, through an honorary consular office or something better than that. And we urge the Department of Trade and Industry to organize an economic exploratory mission to determine the viability of sending Filipino investors to Afghanistan.

May the scars of this experience make us closer and stronger in meeting the many challenges that face our nation in pursuit of peace and national development. Our community will remain a silent but very active supporter of any effort along this line, whether it is pushed by the Philippine government or by another member of the community of nations.

—ERMIE VALDEAVILLA,
coordinator,
The Filipinos in Afghanistan,
c/o ruth@pbsp.org.ph

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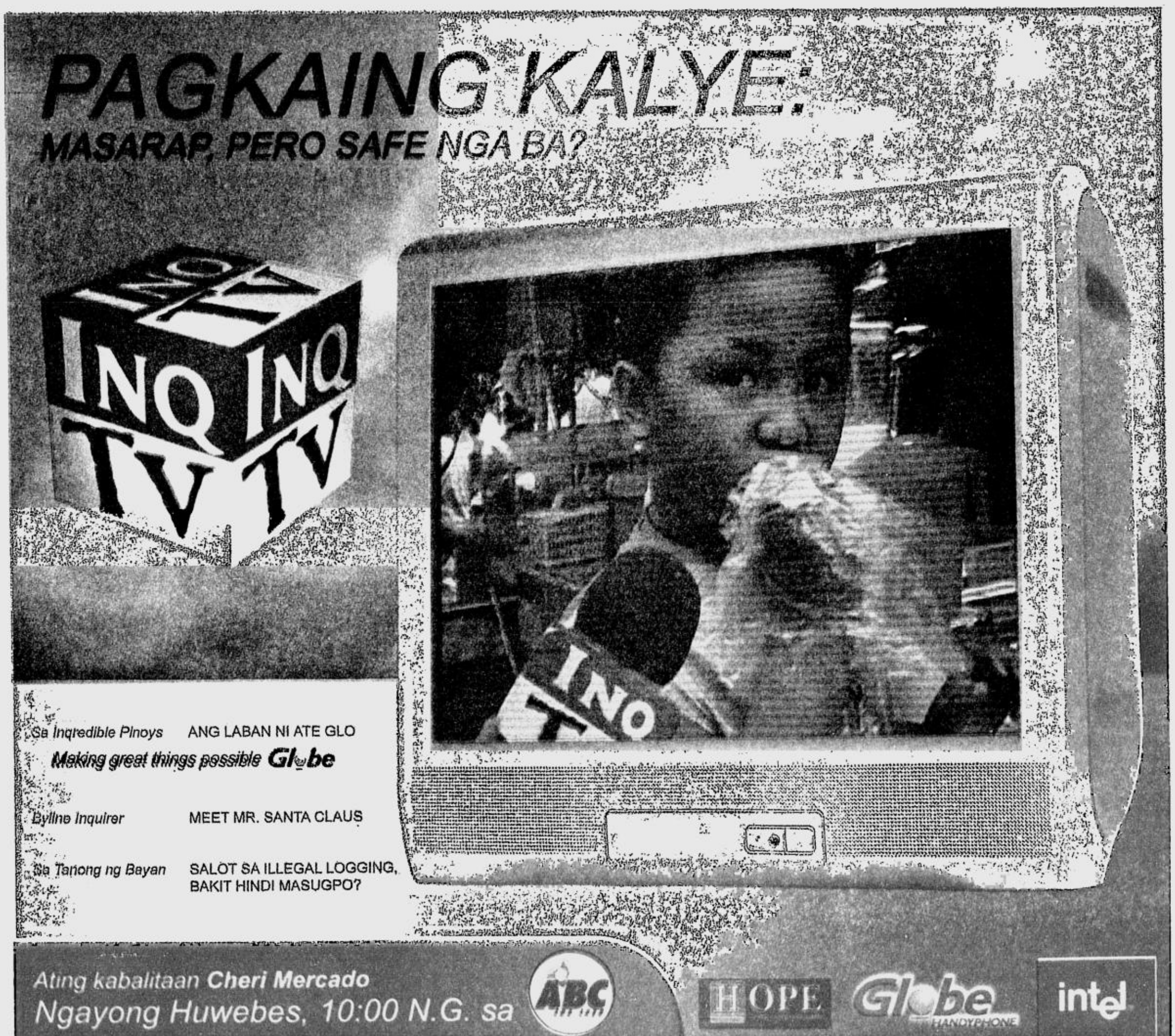
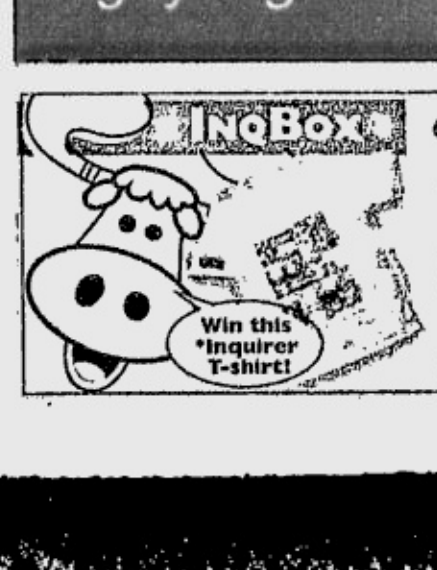
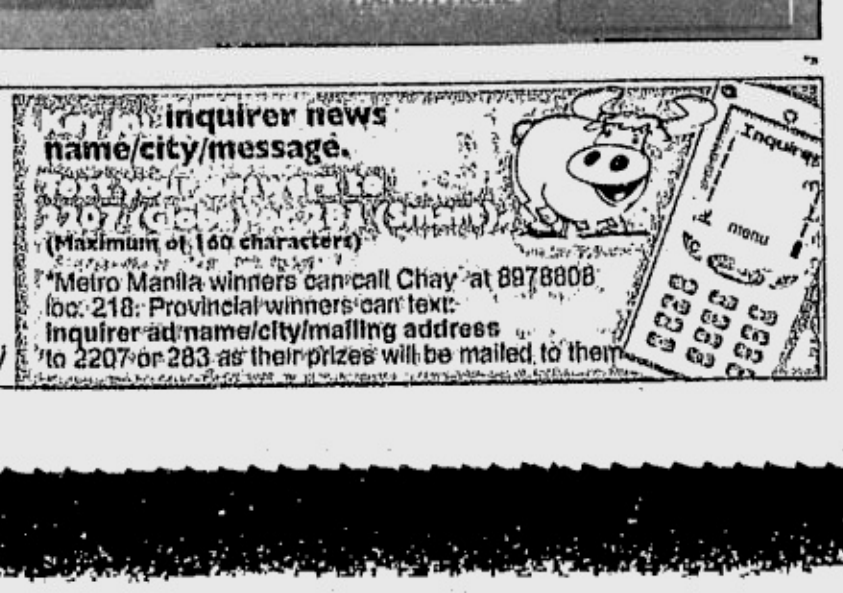




Question of the Week

Do you think commercial logging should be totally banned? Why or why not?

Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wil each receiv an *Inquirer T-shirt!*



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Traders tagged in logging in Quezon

CALAMBA CITY—A former ranking official of the Philippine National Police in Quezon yesterday said a businessman and a real estate developer are behind the extensive illegal logging operations in General Nakar town.

The police official, who talked on condition of anonymity, said the real estate developer, who is also a lawyer and a scion of a wealthy family from Nueva Ecija, has been financing several logging activities in the northern part of Quezon for more than 10 years.

The source told the INQUIRER that the businessman claimed ownership over some 30,000 hectares of forest lands in General Nakar, including the vast lands of Barangay Umiray, which was one of the hardest hit areas in Quezon.

The source, who is now the chief of a key PNP unit in Southern Tagalog, said leaders of the Dumagats and other tribesmen in the upland communities were the ones who provided him with information regarding the unabated cutting down of mature trees in the area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE INITIALS of a logger or a logging firm are very visible on a tree trunk swept into the lowlands by denudation and typhoons.

"The Dumagats said (the lawyer) bought the rights to own the land (many of which were part of their ancestral domain). They said (the lawyer) was the biggest financier of logging in General Nakar," the source said.

He said the lawyer-turned-developer provided chainsaws to loggers and later financed logging.

The lawyer even imported his men from the Visayas and from Central Luzon, the source added.

"Apparently he was new to the logging trade so he tried to bring in people who were experienced in logging," the official claimed.

He said the logs from Umiray town were commonly hauled by carabaos along the riverbanks and into the seafront where barges await the haulers.

The logs are then submerged in the water by placing rocks and other objects on top of it.

He said some of the lawyer's men stayed at the sawmills to receive orders from their clients.

'Successful' campaign

Aside from Roxas, he said several Chinese businessmen were also involved in logging concessions in Quezon.

He said to curb the illegal logging activities, he talked with the governor of the tribal communities in upland Quezon and urged them to help in the government's campaign against logging.

He said they worked closely with Quezon Gov. William Enverga and the military units in the area to gather information about the financiers.

The source said logging operations in Quezon stopped after they raided at least eight saw mills in General Nakar.

He said their operations were successful because the Dumagat leaders ensured that "nobody from their group will engage in logging."

"They served as our ears and eyes in the area. Their cooperation proved to be very vital in our campaign because they were the ones who scoured the vicinity," he said.

He said from time to time, he and Enverga would inspect the mountain range using the helicopters of the Philippine Air Force.

Big problem

It was during these trips that he got information that there are more than 100 logging areas in General Nakar alone.

"This problem is bigger than we ever imagined," he said.

Asked what happened to their "successful" campaign, he replied: "You know it's hard to keep all the residents from engaging in the logging trade. The government does not have alternative livelihood for them."

He said "since time immemorial" logging has been an easy source of money for residents in the uplands.

He then blamed erring environment officials, corruption and inept forest rangers for the continued degradation of the forest.

"We have rated very poor in . . . the implementation of special laws. But we cannot put accusing fingers just on forest rangers alone," he said.

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ROUNDUP

Blast kills man

MIDSAYAP, Cotabato—A man was killed while his pregnant wife was seriously wounded when a hand grenade went off inside their house here. Police said Allan Fermil, 40, had his hands severed after he allegedly pulled off the safety pin of a fragmentation grenade at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday. Senior Insp. Jovit Culaway, Midsayap police chief, said Fermil's wife, Analita, lost one of her eyes due to shrapnel injuries and had to undergo an operation to save her baby. Police initial reports showed that a heated argument preceded the explosion. It was not known how Fermil managed to possess a grenade. The family refused to issue a statement.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Jewelry shop heist

BUTUAN CITY—About P5 million worth of jewelry was lost after three suspected members of the notorious Acetylene Gang robbed the Parliñas pawnshop and jewelry store here on Saturday night. City police chief Senior Supt. Efren Anggo said the suspects used a portable acetylene gadget to tear down the store's exit door and the vault, where the pieces of jewelry were kept. Anggo said the relatively lax security of the store paved the way for the heist, the largest so far in recent years here.

Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Student gunman yields

DAVAO CITY—The son of former councilor Senforiano Alterado surrendered after he was tagged as the one who shot dead a student at the family-owned Mindanao Aeronautical Technical School (MATS). Edwin Alterado, president of the Agriculture Foundation School, an affiliate of MATS in Davao del Norte, on Tuesday surrendered to the Sta. Ana police station accompanied by his father Senforiano. His elder brother Eduardo said Edwin surrendered "to show that we are not evading any responsibility if there is one." During the weekend, police hunted down Edwin after he was tagged as the one who shot and killed MATS student Zaldo Silat on Nov. 28. Witnesses pointed at Edwin as responsible for the killing. Reports said at 2 a.m., Silat came out of the school with his friends when Edwin allegedly shot him after accusing him of robbing the school. This, however, was denied by Eduardo saying that his brother was innocent.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Money changer robbed

CEBU CITY—Six robbers, one of whom a woman, fled with at least P200,000 cash from a money changer shop at the Raintree Mall along F. Ramos Street here in a daring daylight heist. Police said three armed robbers entered the Alco Credit and Foreign Exchange shortly after the mini mall opened at 9:20 a.m., pretended they were customers before declaring a hold-up. The robbers, three of whom stationed themselves just outside of the shop to serve as lookouts, first confiscated the guns of the two security guards before fleeing in a motorcycle with cash and two cellular phones of the employees.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

School reunion, Xmas party

THE ALUMNI of Negros Occidental High School Class '55 all over the country will hold a reunion and Christmas party and organizational check-up meeting on Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. at the Colegio de San Agustin, Bacolod City. The activity is a prelude to the class' 50th reunion on April 21-23, 2005. For details, call Roger Soledad at 09175291805; Ed Barrios at 825-8332; Gen. Raymundo T. Jarque at 810-9150, (Manila) and Naty Gatuz 09194418225 (Bacolod City).

Pols repacking relief goods to woo voters

LUCENA CITY—Soldiers braving the stormy weather and dangerous mountainous terrain just to bring much awaited help to calamity victims in far-flung areas have assailed the opportunism of some local politicians in northern Quezon in the distribution of relief goods.

"We hike mountains and cross rivers just to be able to reach the calamity victims in remote areas but here comes some local politicians ordering us to just turn over the goods to them and they will be the one to distribute the goods by themselves," a junior Army officer, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER.

The official said that at first, they acceded to the request of the politicians.

"But when we saw it with our own eyes that they were repacking the goods and placing them in a plastic bag labeled with the politicians name, its nauseating political opportunism," the soldier said.

The soldier declined to identify the politicians saying it would only create animosity that would only hamper the delivery of relief goods.

"But we no longer give them the relief goods. We distribute it by ourselves. Sometimes we make coordination with a trusted non-government organization in the area to help us in the distributions," the military official said.

Elections for mayor, governor and other local officials are held every three years and once a candidate is elected, his time is spent mostly on campaigning for another term and rarely for public service.

The distribution of relief goods among calamity victims has also become a problem among local officials.

Infanta Mayor Grace America admitted that the distribution was really unruly during the initial days of the distribution of goods.

She said they resorted to the distribution of relief coupons to the barangay officials.

"They know the conditions of their constituents, who really need the goods," she said.

In Real town, Nora Solliestre, the municipal welfare and development officer, said they were also at the receiving end of numerous complaints about the unfair distribution of relief goods.

"Those complaining just want to have more. The relief goods are for all. No one should have more than the others," she said.

Solliestre said they also resorted to the allocation of food coupons to the barangay officials.

Meanwhile, coordinators of "Served The People Corps–Sagip Mamamayan" and "Bal-sa-Bayanihan Laban sa Sakuna," a disaster response program by militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, assailed the military for harassing the members of the group.

The group said some members of the group were prevented by the military from bringing relief goods to areas being claimed by communist guerrillas.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Radioman's slay witness missing; relatives worry

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—One of two vital witnesses in the June 17 murder of radioman Ely Binoya has been missing for more than a month now, his family said.

Gina Rosaldez, wife of witness Allan Rosaldez, told reporters that she was worried that the disappearance of her husband has something to do with the Binoya murder case.

Gina said her husband's relatives were also anxious about his fate.

Members of the Rosaldez family had already sent a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) expressing concern over the disappearance of their relative.

Gina said on Oct. 28, Allan went to General Santos to visit his sister Annabelle but he failed to come home since.

Allan has issued an affidavit, claiming that prior to the killing of Binoya, he saw the suspected gunman disembarking from a car believed to be owned by Ephraim Englis, the alleged mastermind in the killing of the broadcaster.

He said the suspect boarded a motorcycle driven by Alfonso Tuquero near their house in Nagpan Village in Malungon, Sarangani.

Englis and his driver Tuquero surrendered on Aug. 23.

Gina said several instances prior to her husband's disappearance, some men have been asking her where Allan was.

She said the men only stopped coming to their house when Allan disappeared.

As this developed, the wife of the slain broadcaster said that the other witness in her husband's murder has also been receiving threats.

Grace Binoya said unidentified persons were seen frequenting Berto San's house in Upper Labay Village here.

Grace said it appears that the witnesses were being intimidated or that there have been efforts to silence them so that the case against the suspects would not prosper.

Binoya, who also managed Radyo Natin in Malungon town, was known for his scathing remarks against some politicians in the province.

Once, he was beaten by suspected supporters of a politician.

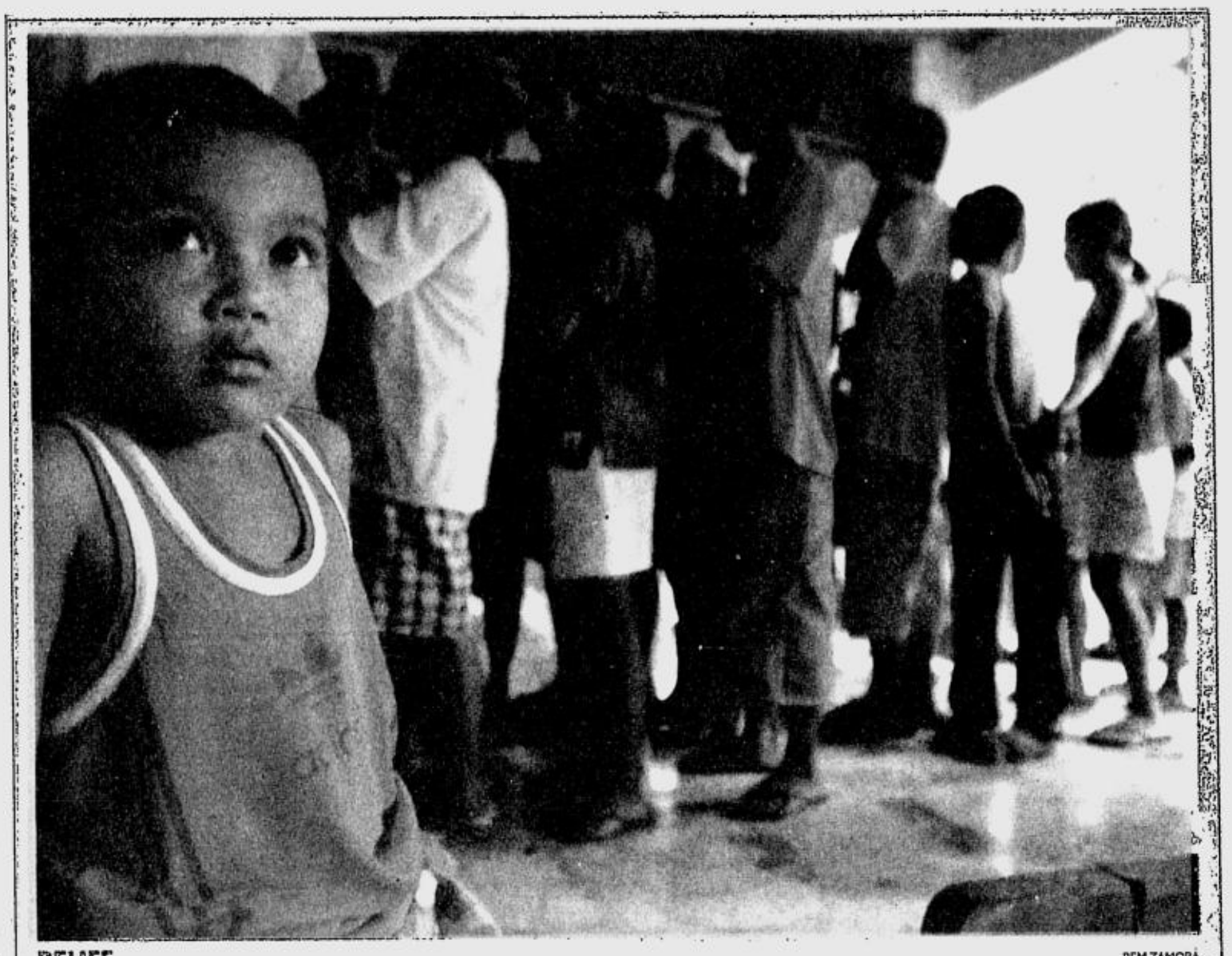
He filed complaints against his attackers and was on his way home when gunned down by two motorcycle-riding men.

Meanwhile, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has urged Police Director General Edgardo Aglipay to take action on the alleged threats received by two broadcasters in Aklan from a local businessman.

In a letter dated Dec. 6, IFJ president Christopher Warren said their organization is alarmed by the threat allegedly made by Antonio Maming, a cockpit operator here, to Elenor Defensor and Augusto Tolentino, reporter and station manager of radio station dyRG.

"We urge your office to take seriously this threat and take action in light of the murders of 13 journalists in the Philippines in 2004," said Warren. The IFJ has around 500,000 members.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Nestor Burgos Jr. and Recto Vidal, PDI Visayas Bureau



RELIEF REM ZAMORA

A child waits as his parents fall in line for relief goods at a distribution center in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. Although the death toll from two typhoons in the province was not as heavy, residents of the province suffered severely from floods and landslides.

Separate road accidents kill 6 in 2 Tarlac towns

TARLAC CITY—In less than a week, six people were killed while more than 10 others were hurt in three separate vehicular accidents here and in Moncada town, police reports showed.

On Sunday, a Five Star passenger bus bumped a tricycle along the Barangay Aguso portion of MacArthur Highway here, killing the tricycle's driver, Oscar Landingin.

On Monday, five people were killed in two road accidents here and in Moncada town.

In Moncada, three people died along the Barangay Mabini stretch of the national road when a Dagupan Bus, driven by Gregorio Umipig, hit an Isuzu Canter van.

The van lost control and was wrecked after it hit a store, a concrete fence and a tree. The van's driver, Cirilo Ricio Jr., 39, of Quezon City, and passengers Jeffrey Virto, 21, of Valenzuela City, and Ricardo Puno, 20, of Pasig City, were killed.

In the Barangay San Sebastian section of the MacArthur Highway in this city, two men were killed in an accident involving four vehicles.

Police said a northbound Isuzu van was trying to overtake vehicles ahead of it when it sideswiped a pedicab and lost control. The van then hit a Yamaha tricycle carrying eight people. Due to the impact, the tricycle was thrown several meters and hit an Isuzu Fuego pickup.

Police said Bonifacio Ayuyao, 60, and Richard Antalan, 24, both passengers of the Yamaha tricycle and residents of Barangay Parsolingan here, died instantly.

Baltazar Bacsa, the tricycle driver, and five others were hurt and taken to the Tarlac Provincial Hospital.

The pedicab's driver and passenger were also taken to the same hospital. *Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Media groups, NGOs plan protests on human rights day

ILOILO CITY—Media organizations and journalists will mark the observance of International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 with coordinated protest actions today.

Around 100 media organizations and individuals have signed a pooled statement condemning the rash of killings of Filipino journalists.

The statement said while journalists in other countries are jailed or are subject to harsh censorship and media laws, those in the Philippines are being murdered with impunity.

"The Philippine press will remember 2004 as a year of infamy. We have lost 13 colleagues in what could be work-related murders, the highest number in history," read the statement, which was drafted by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

In the statement, the journalists asked for the public's support in defending press freedom.

"This right (press freedom) is enshrined in the Constitution, not because a special sector demands special privilege, but because it helps ensure adherence to all other basic civil liberties."

The statement will also be read in Filipino and in local dialects in radio stations after a nationwide two-minute-silence at 3 p.m. today.

Television stations are also expected to read the pooled statement, said NUJP national chair Inday Espina-Varona.

Aside from the pooled statement, the NUJP has asked journalists to hang outside their offices streamers protesting the killings.

Among those who have signed or signified their intention to sign are the Center for Community Journalism Development, Philippine Center for Photo Journalism, Publishers Association of the Philippines (Bacolod), MindaNews, Southeast Asian Press Alliance, Bombo Radyo, Media Advocates for Reproductive Health and Empowerment, Negros Council for Press Freedom, Congress of Active Media Practitioners and Cebu Federation of Beat Journalists.

Also the Cagayan de Oro Press Club, Dumaguete Press Club, Iloilo Press Club Inc., Aklan Press Club, Correspondents, Broadcasters and Reporters Association (COBRA-ANS), Batangas Newswriters Association, Cordillera Press Photographer, and Cordillera Video and the Cordillera Videographers Press Corps, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KPB)—Aklan Chapter, League of Antique Media Practitioners, College Editors Guild of the Philippines, Negros Defense Press Corps, PRO4 Press Corps, and DOTC Press Corps.

At least 207 non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations and Church-based groups will take part in the "Caravan for Peace" to celebrate International Human Rights Day in Bicol.

Rev. Fr. Jovic Lobrigo, chair of the Social Action Center here, said the caravan was supposed to start in Camarines Norte and proceed to Sorsogon, but because the Camarines provinces were hardhit by Typhoon "Yoyong," the caravan would start in Legazpi City instead. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Solons urged to probe NIA anomalous dam

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A militant peasant group is asking its party-list representatives to investigate the unfinished P120-million Talibon reservoir irrigation.

The move of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uumang Bol-anon (Humabol) came amid suspicion that some politicians might be involved in the irrigation scam.

The Humabol, an affiliate of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said it would ask Anakpawis Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano to conduct an inquiry.

Beltran is former chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno while Mariano chairs the KMP.

"This is directed toward the possibility of a congressional inquiry in aid of legislation," said Humabol chair William Boybanting in a statement.

The National Irrigation Administration and the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas are conducting separate inquiries on the unfinished dam based on a complaint filed by the Boholanos Against Corruption Oppression and Social Harassment (Bacos).

The project has not progressed beyond a handful of structures despite the admission of provincial irrigation officer Calixto Seroje that more than P119 million has been spent on it so far.

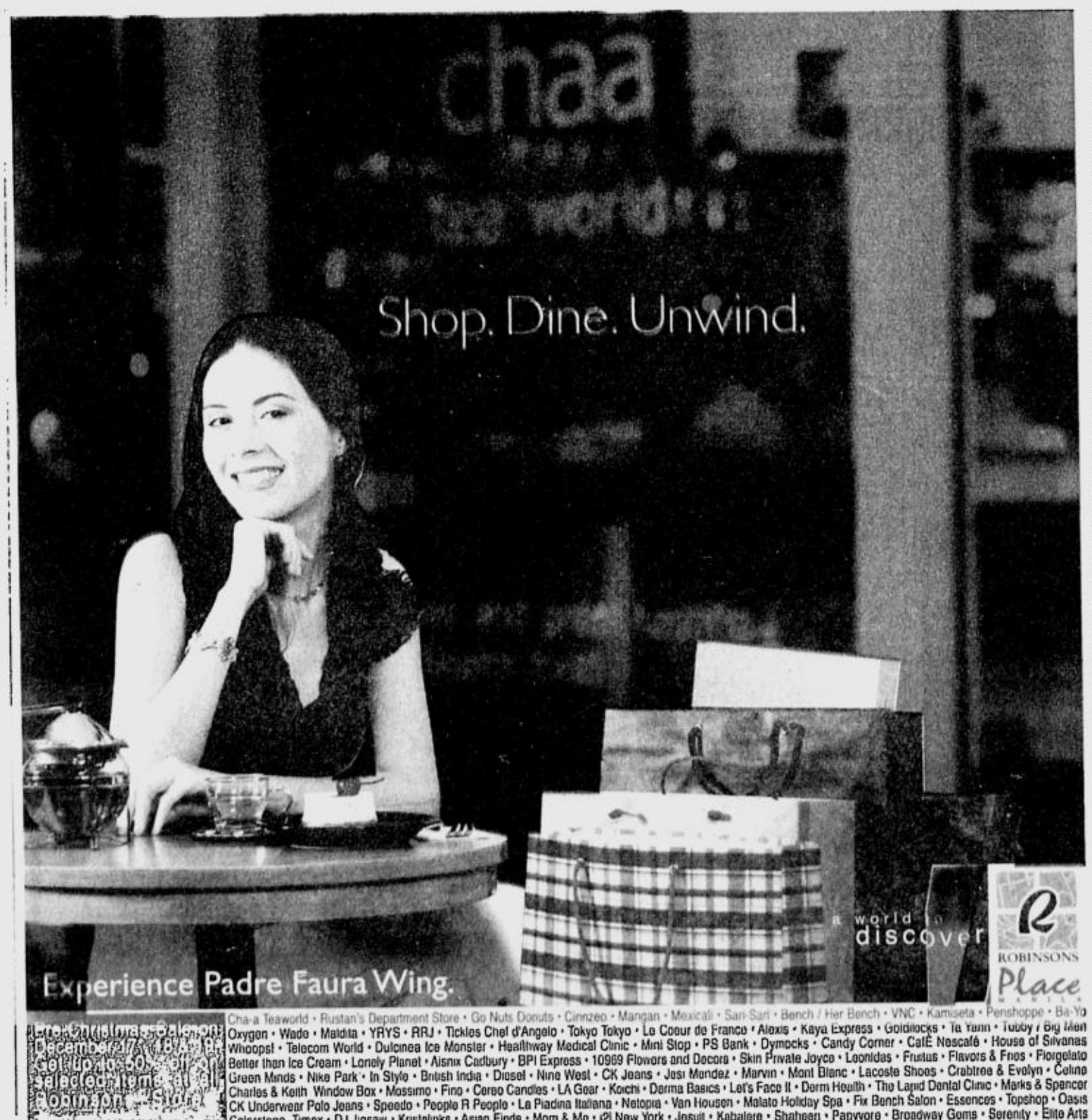
"How could NIA have accomplished P18,095,081 for 'dam embankment' when the ongoing work is still on the foundation of the reservoir itself?" asked engineer Petronilo Sarigumba, a retired NIA project manager who signed the Bacos complaint.

A NIA fact-finding team has visited the province. The Ombudsman-Visayas has requested the Commission on Audit (COA) to furnish it with a report of its audit.

John Ruiz, Bayan Muna chair in Bohol, said the investigation "cannot progress if there are powerful people involved."

Ruiz warned that if the investigation ended up in a whitewash, no one can prevent underground forces from implementing "revolutionary justice."

"Wasting precious funds is a monumental sin against the people," he added.



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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Missionaries restore dignity of disabled

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

AT A VERY young age, Jessie was left to the care of an abusive stepfather, who tied him inside a poultry house for several months after his mother died.

Neighbors who learned about Jessie's situation reported the matter to the police. Subsequently, the Department of Social Welfare and Development took custody of the boy, but because it does not have accommodation facilities, it turned him over to the Missionaries of the Poor in Naga City.

Jessie, who was then 4 years old, was suffering from epilepsy. He communicated like a cock and ran with his arms spread like wings.

"He used to go around in circles, chase and smell things that he saw. When he laughed, he cackled like a cock. He also avoided eye contact with people by covering his head with his arms," said Bro. Rodel Tabanao, a volunteer.

But Tabanao said they had rebuilt Jessie's life by making him overcome his psychological impairment. Now 10 years old, Jessie has discarded the ways of the cock and can now follow instructions, he said.

The Missionaries of the Poor (MoP) easily stands out in Naga as one of the very few entities that religiously uphold, almost in a saintly deed of charity, the rights and dignity of rejected disabled individuals.

It began its mission in the Philippines and in Naga in 1993, among the slum dwellers. That year alone, it took care of 110 mentally retarded persons.

The MoP finds fulfillment in caring for the physically and mentally disabled, who have been abandoned by their families. Its mission is to bring dignity to the homeless disabled and destitute.

On Oct. 17, 1997, the Vatican formally recognized the MoP as a religious institute. Its founder, a Jesuit priest named Fr. Richard Ryan Ho Lung, opted to live with the poorest of the poor in the ghettos of Jamaica instead of a promising career in the academe.

"He made the difficult decision of leaving the Society of Jesus, which he loved, and founded a religious community of men who dedicated their lives in the sole service of the rejected and the destitute," said a literature on the souvenir program celebrating the 10 years of service of the MoP in Naga.

Born to a poor couple from Hong Kong on Sept. 17, 1939, Lung personally experienced poverty in Richmond, St. Mary, Jamaica. He would openly share to fellow missionaries how several times he, his parents and three other siblings shared a cup of rice for a meal.

His parents could only afford one pair of pants for him, which became tattered over time, "exposing his rear end to the elements and his ego to a battering."

Lung is described by his fellow missionaries as "somebody who had experienced poverty but rejected a life of ease amid the opportunities that came in his prime."

A COMMUNITY volunteer worker feeds an adult suffering from cerebral palsy.

PHOTOS BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

A FAR cry from their decrepit situation in the streets, this mixed group of disabled persons enjoys a meal.

Vow of poverty

Fr. Charles Ma. Susai, head of the mission in Naga, revealed that all the priests and lay missionaries of the MoP practice the vow of poverty and a regimented life in favor of spirituality.

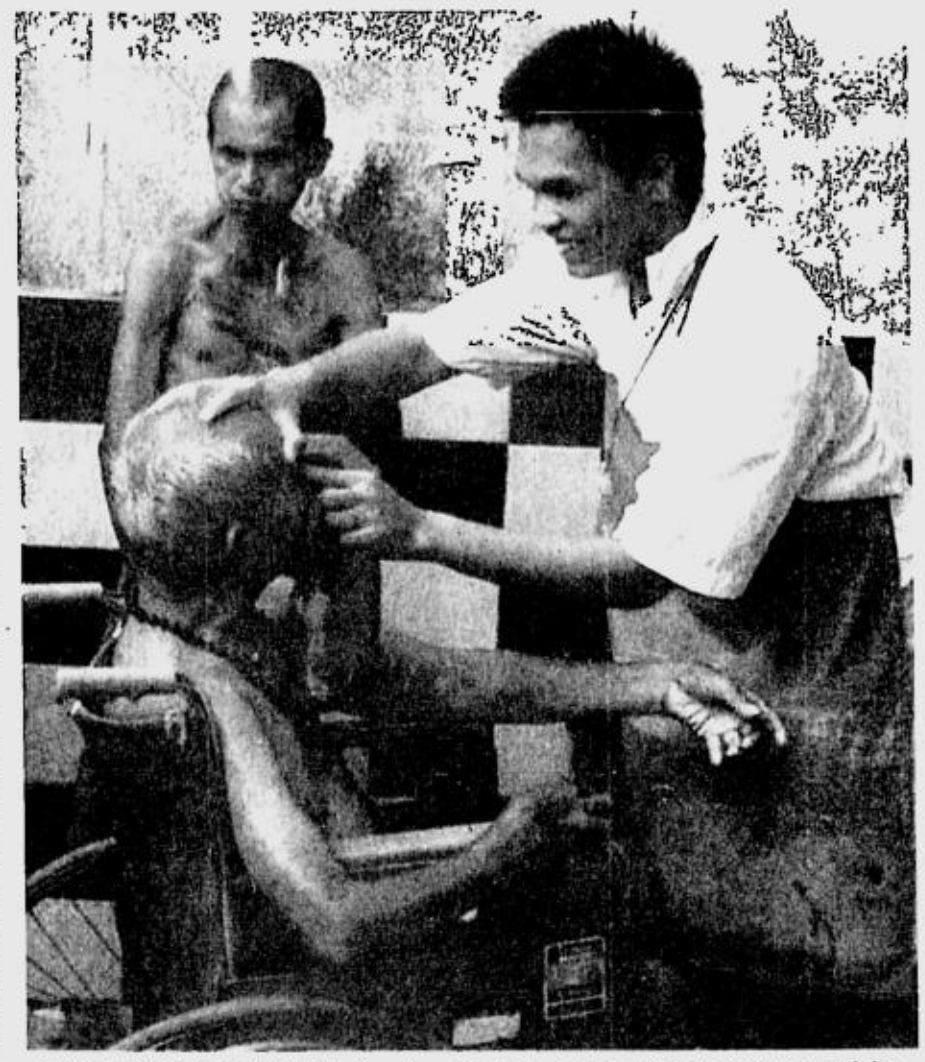
"All the priests and brothers own only three habits, two pants, two shirts, four pairs of underwear and a pair of sandals each. We sleep in dormitories with small lockers, eat the same simple food, wash our clothes, clean our rooms, do manual labor and devote ourselves to prayer and meditation nine hours every day," Susai said.

Ora et labora, or prayer and labor, is their routine from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, he said.

They have no siesta, do not smoke, drink or gamble, or watch television. They are also not allowed to have personal bank accounts.

The missionary-priests provide, for free, marriage ceremonies, baptisms and blessings of the dead within the village where their center is located. In some instances, they pay for the church fees of unmarried poor couples to fulfill the sacrament or make coffins or bury the dead of poor families.

During Mass, which they celebrate at 10 a.m. on Sundays, the offertory ritual of passing around the offering box is absent. They do not ask for money during the Mass, which some mentally disabled residents attend together with the villagers.



A MISSIONARY-BROTHER bathes two disabled elderly at the shower room of the Apostolate Center in Naga City.

FR. CHARLES Ma. Susai dotes like a father a kid suffering from cerebral palsy in his arms.

Apostolate Center

The priests and brothers of the MoP have sheltered and cared for some 500 physically and mentally disabled persons over a period of more than 10 years at the Apostolate Center, a facility for the homeless and the mentally, physically and terminally ill people in the compound of the Heart of Mercy, the mission center, in Cararayan, Naga.

They have cared for the terminally ill and permanently impaired individuals until their death, or helped them reintegrate into their homes of origin if ever their families had been located.

At present, the center serves 120 adults and children who are fed, bathed, clothed, groomed and given medication and therapeutic services by caregivers who are volunteers from the community and the missionaries.

"We ensure that they [residents of Apostolate Center] live in an atmosphere congenial to well being that allows them to live in dignity and respect for each other," Susai said.

The MoP takes in those who belong to the poorest of the poor, who are no longer able to support themselves and without families to take care of or had been abandoned by them.

They have children, women, men and elderly individuals with manageable mental cases, congenital defects and psychological impairment.

Indeed, in this present society, it is a gem to find people voluntarily caring for mentally and physically disabled persons, not their kin, without pay or expectation. The Missionaries of the Poor belongs to this tribe.

Bonifacio: The neglected hero

By Marlon Ramos
Maragondon, Cavite

DESPITE monuments built to depict his heroism and streets named after him, most Filipinos continue to give Andres Bonifacio, "The Great Plebeian," the cold shoulder.

Historian Ambeth Ocampo shared this sentiment during the Nov. 30 unveiling of a four-meter Bonifacio monument on the hillside of Mt. Nagpatong in Maragondon, Cavite, said to be the "official" execution site of the great revolutionary and his younger brother, Procopio.

The ceremony, led by Mayor Monte Andaman, was part of the nation's commemoration of the hero's 141st birth anniversary.

Sculptor Toym Imao crafted the bronze monument, which also features a wounded Procopio lying on Bonifacio's left. Interestingly, Imao's father took his name after the acronym TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men), as he was born the same time the elder Imao received a TOYM award.

Two panels of murals adorn the place.

Ocampo, chair of the National Historical Institute (NHI), said the majority of history books used in schools today presented several misconceptions about the life and times of Bonifacio. These were among the reasons no Bonifacio Shrine had been declared yet.

Mysteries surrounding the hero's death on May 10, 1897, have remained unexplained, Ocampo said. For one, he said, no one really knows exactly where the "Champion of the Working Class" was killed and buried. The country's historical archives do not have precise information about the matter, aside from the memoirs of Lazaro Makapagal.

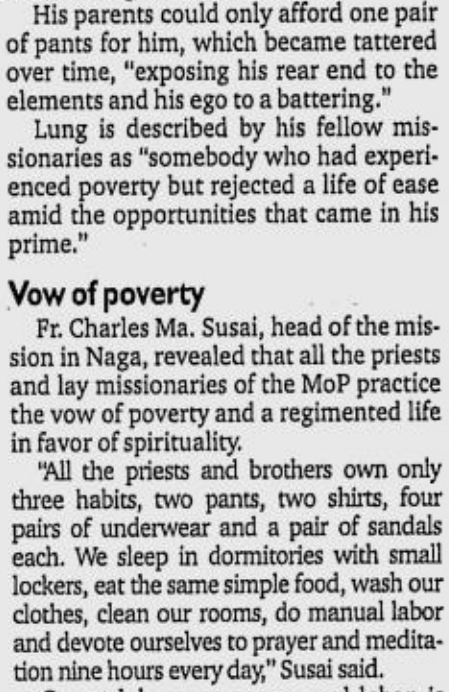
Makapagal was ordered by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo to bring Bonifacio and Procopio to the execution grounds. Some history books used by high school students identified Mt. Buntis as the site where the two were shot by Aguinaldo's men, Ocampo said.

"Even now, no one can really tell where his remains are. The bones found here [in the early 1990s] are now gone after World War II. I, for one, refuse to believe the authenticity of the remains," Ocampo said.

The reported discovery of Bonifacio's bones was used as a political tool when then presidential candidate Manuel L. Quezon ran against Aguinaldo in the Commonwealth elections, he said.

Ocampo lamented that the centenary of Bonifacio's death in 1997 was treated with less fanfare than that of another national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, in 1996 and the Independence Day centennial.

As if to add salt to injury, this year's commemoration of Bonifacio Day was eclipsed by news about Typhoon "Winnie."



MARKER of execution site?

Long overdue

Imao said the Bonifacio Monument in Nagpatong, the tallest and largest so far, was put up to dispel myths about the "Father of the Philippine Revolution."

He said he wanted to portray Bonifacio as "a genius war tactician and an intellectual organizer."

"The image depicts Bonifacio not as the usual hot-headed, bolo-wielding revolutionary that many Filipinos think of him. I wanted to picture him as a bright and brave hero who knew how to use his brains and gun," he said.

For Georgina Reyes-Encanto, professor and former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communications, the monument was "long overdue."

Until the project started a year ago, the site had remained unnoticed. Graffiti scrawled all over the concrete marker were glaring indications of how the site was ignored.

"For years, Bonifacio's deeds have been neglected. This project is definitely long delayed," Encanto said.

She compared the rather deplorable state of national historical landmarks, such as her uncle's house where Aguinaldo's Katipunan faction tried Bonifacio for sedition in Maragondon, to how other countries preserve theirs as national treasures.

Encanto said she almost bought the house in the early 1990s after learning that its occupants nearly sold it to give way to a commercial establishment.

"So what we did was to help the family in their daily expenses just to avoid the sale of the trial house. It was really very saddening," she said.

She added: "In other countries, the government would spend millions just to save their historical landmarks."

Encanto said she was doing research for a book on Maragondon's history, which, she hoped, would give the youth a better grasp of the town's importance as "seat of revolution in Cavite."

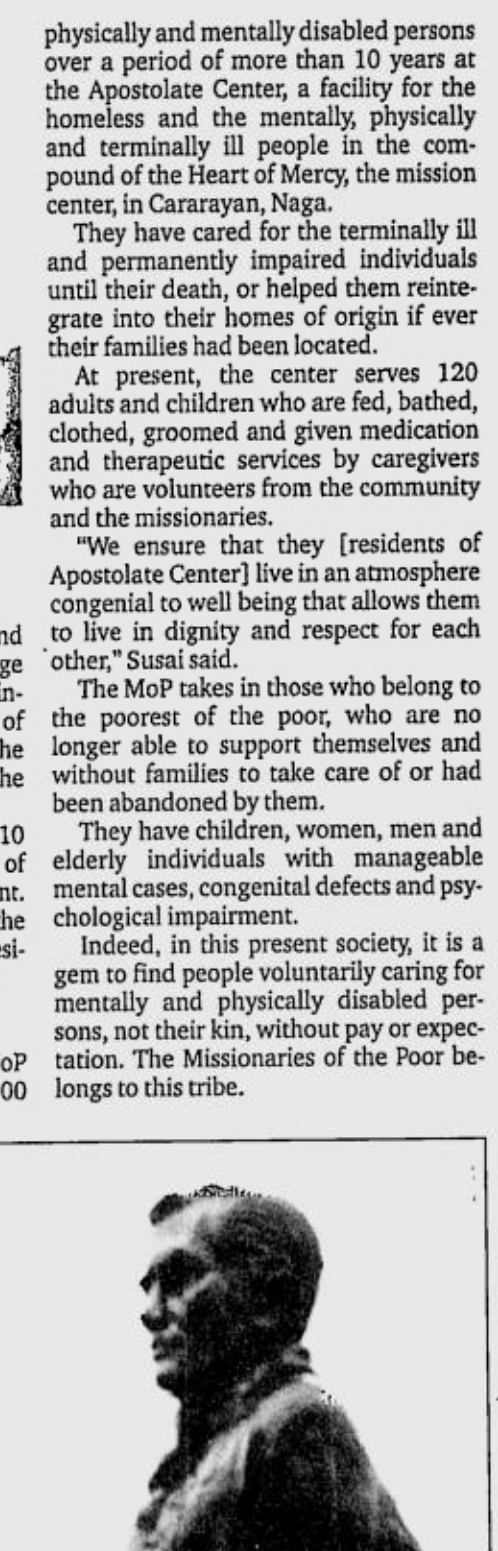
Politics

Jeffrey Lubang, former curator of the trial house, blamed politics for the government's alleged negligence in preserving Bonifacio's records, especially his ties with Caviteños.

Some provincial officials and local officers of the Cavite Historical Society (CHS) still give weight to the politics behind Bonifacio's death and the stature of Aguinaldo, an Imus native, Lubang said.

"It's time to put all the politics behind and instead work for the protection of Bonifacio's memoirs," Lubang said.

Curiously, none of the invited Cavite officials and CHS officers attended the ceremony.



A FOUR-METER bronze monument of national hero Andres Bonifacio and his wounded brother Procopio, crafted by sculptor Toym Imao, is unveiled in Mount Nagpatong in Maragondon, Cavite.

PHOTOS BY MARLON RAMOS

PCSO TODAY

On top of P5-M calamity assistance

Sweepstakes earnings boost PCSO assistance to typhoon victims

by Dmitri Arce

NEXT TIME you think twice about buying a sweepstakes ticket this December, consider this: for every P10 you spend to purchase one ticket, about P1.60 will go to the typhoon victims of Quezon and Aurora provinces.

The donated amount may seem a pittance at first glance. Until one learns that 40,000 sweepstakes booklets were printed and put on sale for the December sweepstakes daily draw (SDD).

With each booklet having 50 tickets, the maximum amount that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) can allocate – for food and medicine of hundreds of thousands of typhoon-ravaged families in remote Quezon province, is P3.2 million. That is, if every ticket is sold in the December draw.

Last week, the PCSO allotted 25 percent of net earnings generated from the total sales of its new sweepstakes game to victims of the series of typhoons that ravaged the provinces of Quezon and Aurora.

The financial assistance from sweepstakes sales, according to PCSO General Manager Rosario C. Uriarte, is on top of the P5-million Calamity Fund that the agency earmarked as assistance to the calamity victims.

"The PCSO family joins the nation in condoling with the families of those who died and those rendered homeless in the wake of the typhoon onslaught. We hope to contribute in our own small way to ease the pain of their sufferings," Uriarte explained.

Uriarte added the PCSO Board of Directors approved the allocation of 25 percent of the Charity Fund derived from the sales of the Sweepstakes Daily Draw (SDD) for the months of November and December this year.

"This (amount) maybe viewed as a small amount to compensate for the loss of lives and property, but we hope this would augment whatever resources are available for the victims," Uriarte pointed out.

The Sweepstakes Daily Draw is the latest game introduced by PCSO, wherein an individual can bet even just once in a month but whose ticket is eligible to win for 31 days in the daily draws.

The new sweepstakes held its inaugural draw yesterday, Dec. 1. Selling of tickets began as early as November 3 this year.

"The Sweepstakes Daily Draw is a project of the PCSO that is primarily geared to boost the agency's capacity to render charity service to those who need it. In times of great disaster like this, we are even in a better position to provide immediate assistance because of the renewed public support for revenue projects like the sweepstakes daily draw," Uriarte explained.

Carlos Castillo, OIC-Manager of the PCSO Sales Department, reported gross sales of P9,704,463.60 from 27,047 booklets of sweepstakes tickets sold from November 3 to November 30 alone.

Net receipts, however, reached only P9,510,374.33 after deduction of payments for documentary stamp tax and two percent (2%) printing cost. Fifty-five percent of net receipts would go to prizes, 15 % to operating fund and 30% to charity fund.

"We will get the financial assistance for the victims of typhoons Unding, Violeta and Winnie from this Charity Fund," Uriarte said.

The PCSO has already extended financial assistance to around 9,000 victims of calamity and fire, even to rebel returnees, within the first 10 months of the year. This financial assistance amounted to a total of P23 million, which is part of PCSO's Calamity Fund.

From January to October this year, a total of around 8,700 victims of fire all over Metro Manila and the rest of the country were given financial assistance by PCSO. The amount of assistance is P2,000 per victim.

Among the beneficiaries are hundreds of victims of fire that razed makeshift houses in the state-run shipyard in Baseco Compound in Port Area, Manila, in January this year.

The recipients also include hundreds of fire victims in Barangay Potrero in Malabon City early this year.

Financial assistance was also extended to flood victims in Ilocos Norte upon the request of Rep. Imee Marcos.

Aside from fire victims, financial assistance was given to around 225 rebel returnees; 155 of whom were from the provinces of Batangas and Laguna, and another 100 from the New People's Army in North Cotabato, Davao del Sur and the Agusan provinces.

Some 554 families displaced in seven barangays in the municipality of Aleosan, North Cotabato were also given assistance charged against the Calamity Fund totaling P1.1 million.

The financial grants to these victims of misfortunes, man-made or otherwise, are approved by the members of the PCSO Board of Directors through several resolutions.

To apply for this request, a victim or a representative for a group of victims may go to the PCSO office in E. Rodriguez Ave. in Quezon City.

The cost of charity

Interview with Betsy Paruginog Assistant General Manager for Finance

AS THE PRINCIPAL government agency mandated by law to raise and provide funds for health programs, medical assistance, services, and charities of national character, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has become synonymous with "ready help" in times of disasters, natural or man-made. Last week, while the nation reeled from the effects of three devastating typhoons, PCSO Today's writer-consultant Ferdinand G. Mendoza interviewed Betsy Paruginog, PCSO Assistant General Manager for Finance for a numbers check on the agency's financial capability to render charity. –EDITOR

FERDINAND MENDOZA (FM): Can you give a picture on how much PCSO is spending for charity?

BETSY PARUGINOG (BP): Our computed average disbursement on a day to day basis ranges from 34 to 44 million pesos. This amount was computed on a 20-day formula. From January to November of this year, PCSO has given a total amount of P3.2 billion for charity.

FM: How much do we spend for charity on a daily basis?

BP: We have been providing financial and medical assistance to about 34,457 cases since January of this year. This amounts to 869,345,610.82 pesos or an average of 3,592,337.23 a day since the beginning of 2004. On the average, PCSO receives about 150 to 200 requests for medical and financial assistance daily.

FM: Which illness or disease tops the charity list in terms of cost?

BP: The top illnesses requiring charity assistance are cancer, heart ailment, renal or kidney failure, lung diseases, liver and Biliary Atresia, Hepatitis and Diabetes mellitus.

FM: Just how much does PCSO spend on these illnesses?

BP: Cancer requires continuous treatment. Aside from chemotherapy, the patient needs regular laboratory examinations, radiation therapy (linear or cobalt), or brachytherapy for cervical cancer, which costs more than a hundred thousand pesos per patient. Brain tumor patients need Stereotactic or Gamma Knife and the latest treatment called Intesive Modified Radiation Therapy or IMRT. For these, the patient (or most likely, the PCSO) would need to spend 100 thousand pesos. Likewise, for an Acute Myelogenous Luekemia patient. A bone marrow transplant will cost 1.5 million pesos. Bone Marrow transplant is only available at Asian Hospital and St. Luke's Medical Center.

For Biliary Atresia patients, the total cost of one liver transplant is 3 million pesos and transplantation is not available in the Philippines. The nearest country which offers liver transplant is Taiwan. Usually, PCSO manages to extend one million pesos per patient. Despite this, families of Biliary Atresia patients still need to raise 2 million pesos to cover cost of treatment.

Renal disease dialysis runs to about five to six thousand pesos a week for every patient. For those patients requiring kidney transplant, post-operative medicines are provided and cost PCSO between 20 to 30 thousand pesos. Kidney transplant costs 100 thousand pesos. So, you see, the number of people we reach may not be that impressive to some. But when you include the type of disease we address and the cost of corresponding treatments these illnesses require, you can understand why PCSO spends more than P3 million a day to sustain its medical assistance operations.

FM: How about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome? Presently, an HIV patient needs about 25 to 30,000 pesos a month for maintenance drugs. Is PCSO ready for AIDS?

Currently, PCSO has nothing earmarked for AIDS. We have a standby fund of one billion pesos, but that's for SARS. And this doesn't mean 1 billion cash-on-hand. What standby fund means is that if there is an instruction from the President, we will prioritize it.

Official Draw Results

Lotto 6/42 — Nov. 27
(in any order) 3 4 2 8 18 34
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P4,914,096.60
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 8 5 7 1 7 0
1st Prize: no winners of P2,809,928.26
Suertres: 5 3 8
Lotto EZ 2: 14 19

MegaLotto 6/45 — Nov. 26
(in any order) 15 23 33 17 34 25
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P20,779,913.70
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 1 9 2 5
Suertres: 2 6 0
Lotto EZ 2: 16 15

MegaLotto 6/45 — Nov. 29
(in any order) 1 20 18 29 26 23
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P25,376,423.10
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 7 1 8 7
Suertres: 3 2 5
Lotto EZ 2: 6 11

SuperLotto 6/49 — Dec. 02
(in any order) 43 38 32 34 41 16
Jackpot Prize: no winners of P15,252,031.20
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 6 0 9 8 6 4
1st Prize: no winners of P970,960.38
Suertres: 5 4 9
Lotto EZ 2: 14 14

SuperLotto 6/49 — Dec. 05
(in any order) 9 13 46 19 43 14
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P20,557,013.40
All following numbers should be in exact order
Suertres: 2 2 6
Lotto EZ 2: 12 19

MegaLotto 6/45 — Nov. 24
(in any order) 17 10 8 5 42 12
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P15,289,619.10
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 9 4 4 1
Suertres: 1 1 7
Lotto EZ 2: 17 14

Lotto 6/42 — Nov. 27
(in any order) 40 27 3 38 28 35
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P9,618,071.40
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 5 8 7 6 4 0
1st Prize: no winners of P314,275.98
Suertres: 4 1 7
Lotto EZ 2: 29 24

Lotto 6/42 — Nov. 30
(in any order) 16 29 4 19 13 21
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P14,423,980.20
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 9 9 9 4 6 0
1st Prize: no winners of P606,947.04
Suertres: 7 3 0
Lotto EZ 2: 23 21

MegaLotto 6/45 — Dec. 03
(in any order) 32 28 20 42 35 8
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P4,759,580.70
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 0 8 1 4
Suertres: 3 7 7
Lotto EZ 2: 2 20

MegaLotto 6/45 — Dec. 06
(in any order) 1 15 23 29 36 42
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winners of P9,771,314.00
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 6 6 4 6
Suertres: 0 0 1
Lotto EZ 2: 5 5

SuperLotto 6/49 — Nov. 25
(in any order) 36 45 22 39 28 5
Jackpot Prize: no winners of P8,000,000.00
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 9 1 4 9 0 9
1st Prize: 1 winner of P3,184,294.00
Suertres: 4 7 8
Lotto EZ 2: 28 31

SuperLotto 6/49 — Nov. 28
(in any order) 20 31 2 37 22 27
Jackpot Prize: no winners of P10,480,575.00
All following numbers should be in exact order
Suertres: 4 8 1
Lotto EZ 2: 26 31

MegaLotto 6/45 — Dec. 01
(in any order) 25 29 17 24 11 27
Luzon Jackpot Prize: 2 winners of P31,392,419.10
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 2 7 8 7
Suertres: 4 1 6
Lotto EZ 2: 20 23

Lotto 6/42 — Dec. 04
(in any order) 22 28 31 5 40 26
Luzon Jackpot Prize: 1 winner of P19,515,213.90
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 3 5 2 1 1 0
1st Prize: no winners of P1,036,923.10
Suertres: 5 4 6
Lotto EZ 2: 31 1

Official Draw Results
Sweepstakes Daily Draw
Jackpot Prize: P100,000.00

Draw Date	Draw Results (in order)	
Dec. 1	41 2 9 9 5	O
Dec. 2	49 3 2 9 9	O
Dec. 3	38 1 3 9 1	P
Dec. 4	32 3 8 0 1	L
Dec. 5	20 0 3 1 3	L

Saving Jeremaia

by Ferdinand G. Mendoza

FOR EIGHT HOURS, doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesotta had operated on the little girl. The ducts that carried bile from her liver to her intestine had been inflamed and obstructed since the day she was born. Her one chance to live depended on the success of a delicate liver transplant operation.

Born in March 1999, Jeremaia Matubis was a healthy, beautiful, pink-cheeked baby at birth.

Recalls proud grandfather Jesus Matubis: "Iba pala ang feeling kapag apo mo ang ipinapanganak. Tuwang tuwa kaming mag-asawa. [Words cannot explain the happiness we felt at having our first grandchild]."

A director for Corporate Affairs of Manila Water Company, Matubis added they had no idea the happiness and contentment they felt was going to be fleeting.

Within weeks, Jeremaia's clear skin had turned yellowish. The child's pediatrician dismissed the change as a result of breastfeeding.

"Sabi ng doktor paarawan lang [Doctors said our granddaughter just needed a little sun]. But we got worried when after the fourth month, Jeremaia's stomach started to bulge. Her yellowish skin also turned blackish," said Matubis.

The family rushed Jeremaia to the Philippine General Hospital. There, doctors diagnosed the child as suffering from Biliary Atresia, a serious infant disorder characterized by a blockage of the bile ducts.

"We also discovered that Biliary Atresia had no known cause and that it was incurable. The only remedy was a liver transplant," said Matubis.

Doctors, however, informed the Matubis family that no liver transplants were ever performed in the Philippines. The operation could be done in the United States at the cost of US$25,000 or a whopping eight million pesos.

Not wasting time, Matubis wrote letters to hospitals all over the world, seeking assistance for Jeremaia's operation.

"Wala kaming ganun kalaking pera [We do not have that kind of money], but I was very optimistic we could raise funds that could save the life of my granddaughter," said Matubis.

At first, Matubis recalled, there seemed to be no response to his letters, until then Vice-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo instructed her then Chief of Staff Edgardo Manda to help the Matubis family locate any hospital that will accept Jeremaia free of charge.

The long wait ended when Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesotta decided to operate on Jeremaia, calling the undertaking as Mayo Clinic's "first humanitarian case for Asia."

But there was still one problem. "Prior to departure, Jeremaia had to remain confined in a hospital and we were running out of funds," said Matubis, adding,

"That was when I sought the help of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office."

The PCSO shouldered Jeremaia's hospital bills from February 2000 up to the time Jeremaia was flown to the United States and underwent a successful liver transplant at the Mayo Clinic.

Grateful for all the help they received, Matubis formed 'Life Thru Transplants-Biliary Atresia Babies Information, Education, and Service' or LiftBabies Foundation.

Health data show that about 200 babies are born suffering from Biliary Atresia every year. The bile disorder afflicts one out of every 15,000 live births in the Philippines.

Matubis said LiftBabies help raise funds for infants with Biliary Atresia.

He added the foundation is presently in contact with around 80 Biliary Atresia-distressed families. "Unfortunately, around 40 infants have died already because of the high cost of hospitalization and medicines required prior to transplant."

An infant with Biliary Atresia has to take high-powered antibiotics. A single dose of antibiotic can cost a family as much as P3,200. "When Jeremaia was hospitalized, doctors said she needed five doses. This happened after Jeremaia went under Kasai procedure," said Matubis.

Named after famed Japanese surgeon Morio Kasai, the procedure – also called a hepatoportoenterostomy – is considered by physicians as a temporary cure for Biliary Atresia.

In the Kasai procedure, damaged ducts are removed and replaced with the infant's intestine, which acts as a new duct. But the process, according to Matubis, has a catch.

"There is a 50-50 chance that the child will develop an infection. This happened to Jeremaia and we had to spend a lot for antibiotics," recalled Matubis.

Matubis said that about 40 percent of the distressed families that approached LiftBabies Foundation belonged to the lower income economic bracket.

He added that the number of new-born children with Biliary Atresia is still growing.

Matubis said, however, that LiftBabies help to provide a realistic, but hopeful perspective to families whose children suffer from the bile duct disorder.

"We do our best to make couples realize and cope with the financial and emotional demands of the ailment."

Looking with pride at a picture of a now healthier Jeremaia, Matubis is quick to admit that he never gave up hope on his first grandchild.

He continous to hope LiftBabies Foundation would see the day when children afflicted with Biliary Atresia would have no need to travel across the globe just to undergo an operation that could save their lives.

"One day," he said, "liver transplants will be performed right here in the Philippines."

Who cut the trees in the forest

(with apologies from the old children's nursery rhyme, "Who Killed Cock Robin")

HALF-EMPTY HALF-FULL

Rosario C. Uriarte

"WHO KILLED th· 'rees in the forest?"

"I," said the lo; er,

"with my chainsaw and lager, I killed the trees in the forest."

"Who saw the trees die?"

"I," said Lola Unday,

"Between the whirring and kaingin, I saw the trees die."

"Who named the logger?"

"I," said the reporter,

"Because there was no other, I named the logger."

"Who'll cry in pain?"

"I," said the Rain,

"Till the skies are drained, I'll cry in pain."

"Who'll rant and rave?"

"I," said the wind,

"To both tyrant and slave, I'll rant and rave."

"Who'll set the fine?"

"I," said Time,

"Once I draw the line, I'll set the fine."

"Who'll warn the people?"

"I," said the steeple

"With the bell in my temple, I'll warn the people."

"But who'll believe? Who'll believe? Who'll believe..."

IT WAS TOO LATE.

Rosario C. Uriarte is the general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).
*Kindly e-mail all comment, suggestions to*mahal_kong_gm@yahoo.com

'Daddy knows best'

Winning the sweepstakes through gentle persuasion

by Ferdinand G. Mendoza

IN THIS particular case, Daddy knows best.

A father's gentle persuasion brought sudden good fortune to his eldest son, who bagged the jackpot prize in the first draw of the "Isang sweepstakes tiket, Isang buwang araw-araw papremyo" promo of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) last December 1.

"I was practically forced by my father to buy the new Sweepstakes Daily Draw (SDD) tickets he was selling," gushed the lucky car sales representative who purchased an entire booklet after a little cajoling.

He added that his father, a just-returned overseas worker, had decided to make a career of selling SDDs sourced from a relative who worked at the PCSO.

"Little did I know that my desire to encourage him in his new venture would net me P200,000," he said, adding that the tickets enjoyed brisk sales in their neighborhood.

"My father started with one booklet sold. In no time, he had sold five booklets and neighbors were still coming to the house to purchase tickets," he said.

Asked on what he'd do with his winnings, the 29-year-old father of four said he and his wife – who worked as a group manager at a fast-food joint – might venture into selling mop heads.

But then again, maybe he'd ask what his father thought was best.

Sweepstakes Daily Draw Mechanics

By Carlos Catillo, Sales Manager, PCSO

BUYING AND SELLING OF TICKETS

1. Tickets are ready to be sold one month before the start of the actual draw. Sales will continue while supply lasts.

2. Tickets can be bought from private ticket agents, vendors or outlets, at the PCSO Central Office, E. Rodriguez Ave, Quezon City, and at PCSO District Offices nationwide.

3. You can only buy tickets by the booklet at the PCSO. One booklet consists of 10 whole tickets, each having 5 single tickets. One booklet has 50 single tickets.

4. A booklet purchased directly from PCSO offices enjoys a 28% discount, costing only P360 per booklet. Retail price is P500 per booklet or P10 per single ticket. A ticket vendor or agent can thus earn P140.00 per booklet if he buys directly from PCSO and sells it to individual buyers.

5. Ticket counters at PCSO offices open at 8 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. daily. Selling of tickets by agents and vendors outside PCSO can go on for 24 hours since tickets are eligible to play daily, even if they have already won.

DRAW MECHANICS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

6. The SWEEPSTAKES DRAW shall be held at the PCSO draw court everyday at 4 p.m. It shall be witnessed by an independent judge and other PCSO officials and Commission on Audit (COA) representatives.

7. The daily draws will be broadcast over NBN Channel 4 during the 9 p.m. LOTTO draws.

8. The SWEEPSTAKES DRAW results shall be published together with the LOTTO DRAW results the following morning in all leading newspapers and be broadcast in different radio stations.

PRIZE MECHANICS:

9. As with the old sweepstakes, each whole ticket has 5 single shares with identical numbers. Each single ticket, however, has an assigned letter, which is any of the following: P,C,S,O,L. Thus a single ticket has a number and letter combination.

10. The jackpot prize goes to a single ticket or share that bears the lucky number-letter combination drawn. All the other tickets that share the same number but have the other letters shall be given the consolation prizes.

11. The jackpot prize for the winning number-letter combination is P100,000. The consolation prize for the four remaining tickets with the same number as the jackpot prize but bearing different letters is P25,000.00 each. If one person buys the whole winning ticket consisting of 5 single tickets with identical numbers, then he wins a total of P200,000.00 for the day.

12. Each ticket is eligible to play daily for the entire month and win the jackpot or consolation prizes many times over. A multiple winner shall be issued a certificate in lieu of the ticket to claim the prize anew.

13. If the winning number for the day is still unsold by PCSO, then the unwon prizes for the day will be added to the prize for the last draw date of the month.

14. On the last draw date, all the unwon prizes plus the day's jackpot and consolation prizes shall form the total prize pot. In case the drawn number is still unsold, another will be drawn until such time that a drawn ticket is won.

Feedback

December 6, 2004

HON. ROSARIO C. URIARTE
General Manager
Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
THRU: DR. JOSE GOCHOCO
Team Leader
Medical and Dental Team

Dear Madam Uriarte:

Relative to our medical and dental mission conducted last November 24, 2004 in our Municipality, as partial fulfillment in our basic program on basic health and medical services as incorporated and highlighted under the five-year Sasmuan Integrated Development Program (SIDP), we would like to express our deepest thanks for manifesting your concern on what we believe to be for the best interest of public service by sending out your doctors and dentists to assist and help us on abovementioned undertaking.

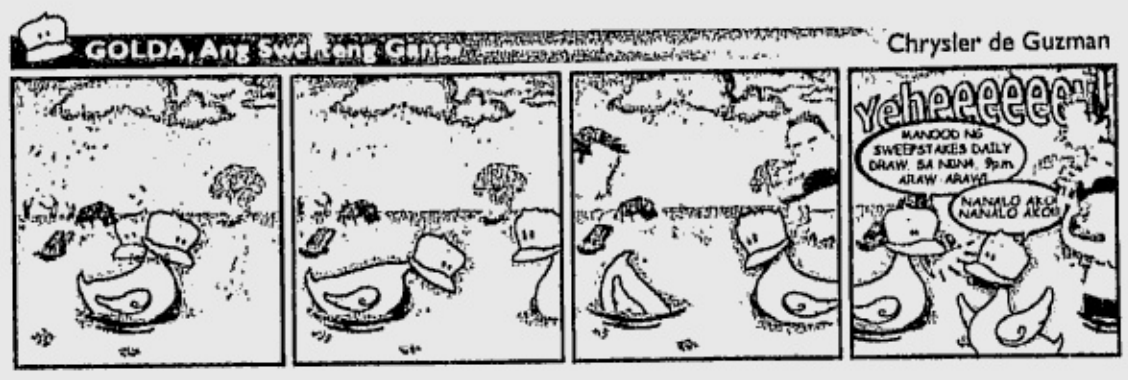
We are glad to inform you that our constituents are very much appreciative and cognizant to the love, care and concern seen from us.

Thank you once again and hope to see you in our next medical and dental mission.

God Bless and Mabuhay!

Very truly yours,

CATALINA C. BAGASINA
Municipal Mayor
Sasmuan, Pampanga



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Actor Martinez acquitted of drug charge

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ACTOR William Martinez was acquitted of a drug charge yesterday by a Pasay City judge who found the case against him "legally weak."

In a 23-page decision, Judge Eleuterio F. Guerrero ruled that the case against Martinez was full of loopholes.

Guerrero found the prosecution's evidence on the improvised tooter, a tube used to sniff shabu, allegedly seized from Martinez on April 24 at the Centennial Terminal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, unreliable and unconvincing.

Tooter in question

The decision further stated that the prosecution, led by 2nd Assistant Prosecutor Artemio Puti, failed to identify the glass tube presented in court as the same improvised tooter allegedly seized from the accused.

The actor was on his way to Dakak resort in Zamboanga del Norte with his wife, Yayo Aguila, last April when he was apprehended after a routine body search allegedly yielded a tooter in his possession.

The judge also noted that while the actor had been subjected to a drug test and was found to be positive for methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, such evidence did not satisfy the requirement of proof of moral certainty that Martinez had indeed used shabu.

Damages

Guerrero also directed the court to return to Martinez, the amount of P50,000 he had posted for his temporary liberty during the duration of the trial.

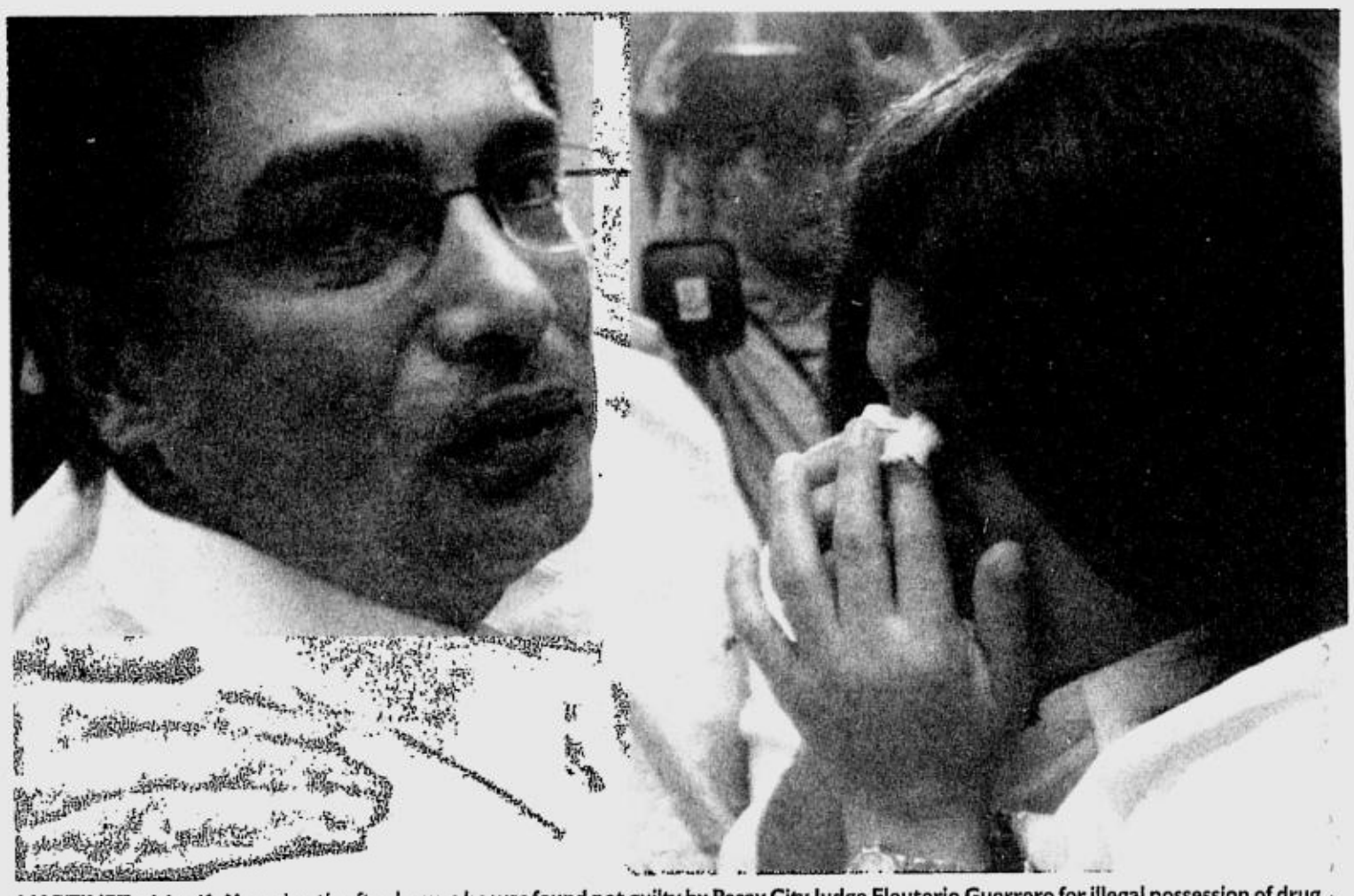
Martinez heaved a sigh of relief, but did not look surprised when the decision was announced.

"I never doubted that I would be acquitted, because I know I'm not guilty," said the actor, a popular teen idol in the '80s.

His wife and his children, along with his mother, Margie, and younger sister Day cried when the decision was read.

"These are tears of joy," Yayo told reporters, friends and fans who packed the courtroom.

Martinez, who turned up in a polo barong and black pants, gamely posed with his wife for souvenir pictures, following a request from some members of the court staff.



MARTINEZ with wife Yayo shortly after he was he was found not guilty by Pasay City Judge Eleuterio Guerrero for illegal possession of drug pharaphernalia.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

One more chance for no-show architects

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TWO ARCHITECTS failed to show up yesterday at the preliminary hearing of a criminal case lodged against them for the collapse of the ill-fated Sai Building, a structure they helped to build in Tondo, Manila.

Edward Sy and Albert Chua, architects hired to construct the eight-story Sai Building, missed the first hearing of the preliminary investigation of their case before the City Prosecutor's Office of Manila yesterday.

Both had been charged with reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property and serious physical injury, and violation of the National Building Code. Building owner Rajude Mansukhani had hired Sy to lead the construction of the building, while Chua was the building contractor.

"They failed to appear in the preliminary hearing. If they do not come for the next hearing, the case would be submitted for resolution based only on the complaint affidavit," said investigating prosecutor Raul Husmillo.

Only Teofilo Go, an engineer who created the structural design for the commercial and residential building, attended the hearing, and was given a copy of the complaint against him and the two architects.

Husmillo said he also asked Go to submit his reply to the charges on Dec. 15, the same day when he expects Sy and Chua to appear and get their copy of the complaint so they could file their individual replies to the charges.

Mansukhani, represented by Ajit Mansukhani and lawyer Josefina Pazziuagan-Olivete, filed the criminal charges early last November, shortly after filing a P22.52 million civil damage suit against the three men.

Findings of a special investigative committee of the Manila City Hall showed the building collapsed last July 23 because of faulty construction.

28 Pandacan families lose homes in fire

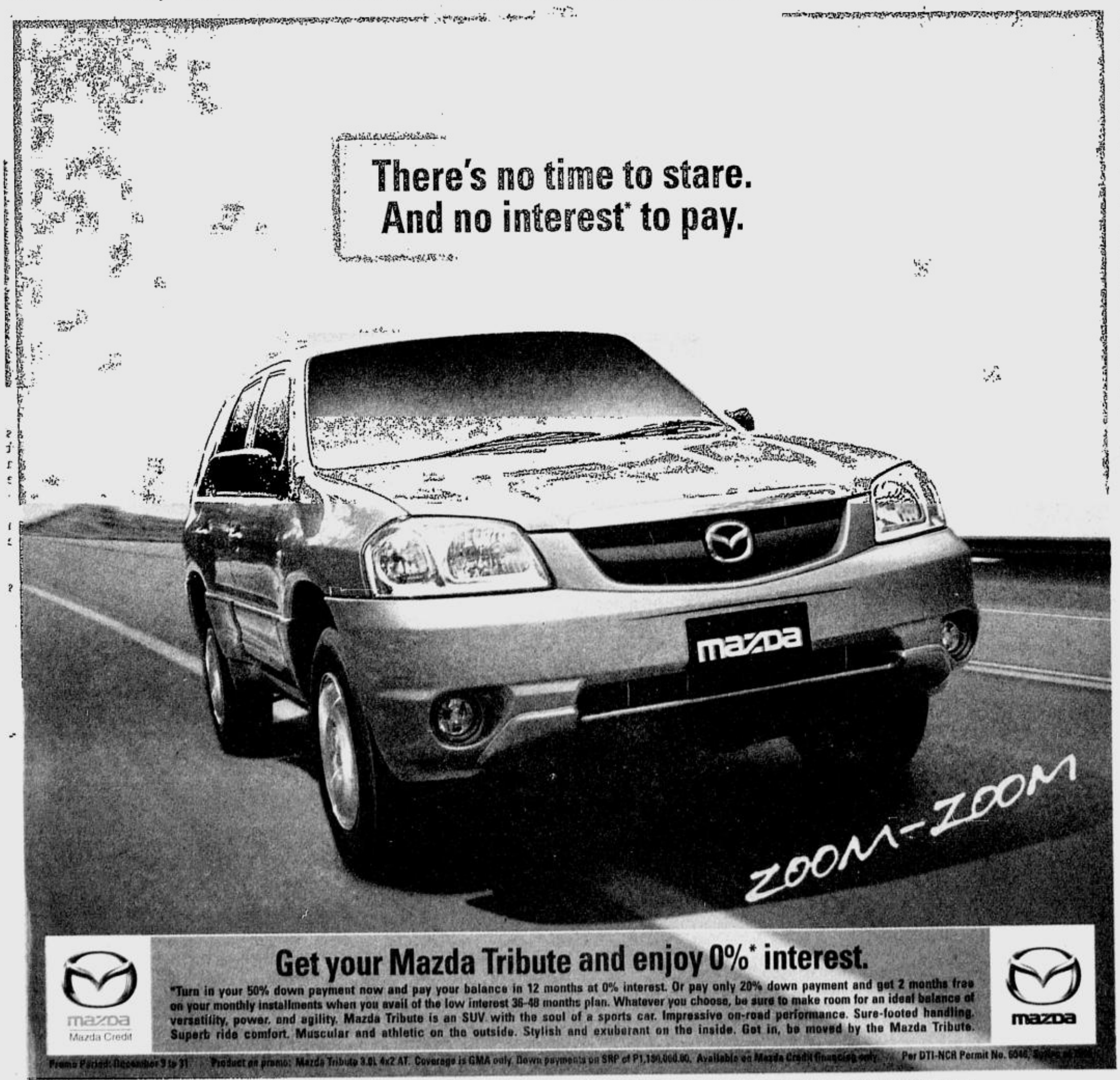
By Leila B. Salaverria

TWELVE houses were destroyed and at least 28 families were rendered homeless when an hour long fire hit a residential area in Pandacan, Manila, Tuesday night.

The blaze also destroyed P500,000 worth of property along Jesus Street. No one was reported killed or hurt in the incident.

Investigation showed that the fire started at 6:40 p.m. at the house of a Boy Redano. It reached the fifth alarm before it was put out at 7:47 p.m.

The cause of the fire has yet to be determined, but residents said that it could have started from an unattended candle.



Santa goes to City Hall

By Ruth L. Navarra

LOOKS like some letters intended for the North Pole have found their way to the Mandaluyong City Hall.

Since 1999, residents of the city have been sending letters to incumbent mayors. It is a tradition that Mayor Neptali Gonzales II intends to keep. Some of the senders' wishes will be granted in a program dubbed "Dear Mayor" on Dec. 20, the mayor said.

Last year, wishes from families who wanted to be reunited for the holidays with relatives in jails or rehabilitation centers were granted by the previous mayor, now Rep. Ben-Hur Abalos. One child and his friends were treated to a day at Enchanted Kingdom.

Typhoons Winnie and Yoyong may have depleted Mandaluyong City's resources, but some letter senders will still receive Christmas packages for their families donated by private companies operating in the city.

Some 45,000 packages will await the city's less fortunate on Dec. 21 at the City Hall grounds in Maysilo Circle. Each package contains canned goods, milk, rice, salt, sugar and coffee. The affair is an annual event in the city eagerly awaited by residents of depressed areas.

EZ2 21 13 | SUERTRES 2 0 5 (In exact order) | FOUR DIGIT 5 8 4 2

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

MEGALOTTO 6/45 7 11 21 31 41

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METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

Marikina to purge resettlement sites

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE CITY of Marikina is set to purge its resettlement sites of renters, Mayor Marides Fernando disclosed yesterday.

"The units in the settlements are for the beneficiaries. They are not supposed to be rented out to other people," Fernando said.

The mayor said roughly 20 percent of the residents in the relocation sites are not the beneficiaries of the city's resettlement program.

The Marikina Settlements Office said there were around 30,000 families in the city's resettlement sites.

"It is illegal to rent a unit in a resettlement site," Fernando said.

"Usually, these renters are the ones who allegedly bring drugs and crime to the area," she said.

The mayor added, "They have nothing at stake, no investments in these places so they don't care what happens there."

"(But) if you own the place, would you allow your children to grow up in a place where there are rapists and criminals? Of course not!" the mayor said.

Citing the Olandes resettlement site, Fernando said the area had become relatively peaceful after she drove away renters.

The mayor also disclosed that she had certified as urgent to the City Council a proposed ordinance that would put up escrow accounts where beneficiaries could deposit P500 monthly.

The account would be for the residents of settlement sites whose ownership is under dispute. One such site is the Tumana District, where up to 10,000 families now reside.

"If you are not the beneficiary, you won't pay," she said.

Fernando admitted that the city's list of families in the settlement centers needed updating. Too many people, she said, have left and settled in these sites in the last few years.

The major resettlement sites in Marikina City are those in the Tumana District, Nangka, Sto. Nino, Malanday, Camacho, San Miguel Realty and Parang.

Fernando said the purge already started but on a limited scale.

Once the ordinance on the escrow account is in place, she said, they would already go "full blast."

The mayor expressed optimism that it would be passed before the year ends, for the purge to go full blast in January.

3 alleged car thieves fall in QC

By Tina G. Santos

CENTRAL Police District operatives have arrested three alleged members of a car theft syndicate and recovered eight vehicles stolen in Quezon City last month.

Police identified the suspects as Noel Nuñez, 22; Jesusito Alafriz, 53; and Benjamin Joselito Alafriz, 19, all of Tondo, Manila.

Nuñez was apprehended by intelligence agents on Dec. 6 on Congressional Avenue, and seized from him was a green Mitsubishi Lancer and several car starters.

The two other suspects were arrested the next day at a garage on Iba Street, Barangay Sto Domingo. In their possession were a white Toyota Corolla and a white Toyota Corolla XL.

Five other vehicles were found near the house of Alafriz.

The suspects are detained at the CPD headquarters in Sikatuna Village while charges are being readied against them.

CHILDREN in masks join Malabon Mayor Canuto Oreta in leading officials, residents and guests to a giant *bilao* of the city's famous noodles at the first Pansit Malabon Festival.

Malabon celebrates 'pansit'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR A change, thick noodles with delicious yellow sauce and placed in round native trays took the place of murky floodwaters in the streets of Malabon City.

In an event made to coincide with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Malabon residents and officials celebrated yesterday their first Pansit Malabon Festival.

Festivities began with a parade, where students danced on the streets using native trays or *bilaos* as props.

And to make sure the message was put across, organizers paraded a *bilao* eight feet in diameter carrying 40 kilos of the noodles that made Malabon famous.

Unlike the usual *pansit*, Pansit Malabon uses thick and firm noodles called "luglog."

The key difference, however, lies in the toppings, which particularly include seafood.

Subic name-dropper not spared in smuggling drive

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE NEW antismuggling task force chief at the Subic Freeport, retired Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, is doing an excellent job. He has not spared somebody who dropped the name of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

The name-dropper is Repoldo Nadar, president of a company that recently tried to smuggle in a brand-new Mercedes Benz at the freeport.

You know how much value Nadar's company placed on the Mercedes Benz? $550 only!

Nadar claims to be a close friend of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, although I'm sure the President's husband doesn't know about his hanky-panky in Subic.

Not only has Calimlim seized the smuggled luxury car, he also ordered the filing of charges against Nadar.

What Nadar didn't know was that after the President appointed Calimlim as Subic Freeport antismuggling czar, First Gentleman Arroyo had a long talk with him.

Arroyo told Calimlim not to be intimidated by people who would drop his name. He told the retired general to arrest anybody who uses his name in illegal activities.

I have a tip for Calimlim: Watch out for the shipments of a guy named Fred Galang. He uses Mike Arroyo's name in smuggling luxury cars through the Subic Freeport. He reportedly places "FG" markings on his car shipment to deceive customs personnel into thinking that the cargo belongs to the President's husband.

Many customs personnel at Subic have fallen for that ruse. Calimlim should not.

***

The President must be proud of her customs man at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), Celso Templo. Templo is not easily intimidated by big names placed on cargoes arriving at the Naia.

Templo recently ordered the seizure of $8 million worth of ammunition and cartridges for small arms consigned to the Philippine Army. The sender was the Department of the Army Headquarters, US Army Joint Munitions Command.

The Naia customs chief ordered the shipment held because it did not have an import permit and a permit from the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) of the Philippine National Police.

No amount of explanation from Maj. Gen. Antonio Anciano, deputy chief of staff for logistics, and a memorandum from Lt. Col. Charles K. Corner of the Joint US Military Advisory Group (Jusmag), would convince Templo to release the shipment.

"They have to present an import permit and a permit from the PNP for me to release the shipment," he said.

Attaboy, Templo!

***

For having two members of the Office of the Ombudsman arrested for attempted extortion years ago, Fire Insp. Virgilio M. Acabal is now reaping the wrath of the Ombudsman.

Ombudsman investigators Gerald Barrez and Rodrigo Bumanglag were arrested in an entrapment operation after they tried to extort money from Acabal to settle a case with the investigating body. Acabal said he was facing a criminal case with the Ombudsman for buying a lot in a squatters area.

As a result of that entrapment, Bumanglag was dismissed but Barrez was able to wriggle himself out of trouble.

Barrez is now pursuing another criminal case against Acabal, a trumped-up charge, the fire officer claims.

Is this what it means when they say you can't fight City Hall?

Have you seen Jun-Jun and Aileen?

RIZON

SANTOS

JUN-JUN Rizon, 19, has been missing for two months now.

He was wearing a yellow shirt, short pants and slippers when he left their house in Dagat-Dagatan Navotas, on Oct. 1, said his mother, Josie.

Josie is asking those who might know Jun-Jun's whereabouts to contact her or her husband, Esmeraldo, at these numbers: 273-5856 or 273-5916.

AILEEN Naga Santos, 18 years old, 5'1", dark-complexioned left on Nov. 10 in the company of a certain Jinky Esguerra. They are believed to be staying in Olongapo, Zambales.

Aileen was last seen wearing a yellow shirt with jeans and blue sneakers.

Please notify her mother Lourdes at 0919-2649614 or Joi Barias at 0919-6664100 if you see her.

BACK TO SCHOOL
REM ZAMORA
Sen. Manny Villar watches as a student at the Lakandula High School in Gagalangin, Tondo, works on a computer during the school's 42nd anniversary Tuesday. Villar, who grew up in Tondo, visited the school where he also donated funds for the repair of one of its school buildings.

METROBRIEFS

Interest-free loan

MUNTINLUPA City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi announced that the local government would be extending interest-free loans to its poor residents who want to put up their own business. He said P3 million had been allocated for this initiative, which will be under the Joint Resources for the Family Micro Enterprise Financing of the city. To encourage local entrepreneurs, the city held a contest in its nine poorest barangays to produce goods they would want to sell. Residents can avail of loans from P3,000 to P40,000 payable in six months to one year. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

New raps for 'killer'

THE CITY Prosecutor's Office of Manila has filed murder charges anew against Ricardo Marzo Jr., the man who stands charged with robbery and homicide for the death of 19-year-old pharmacy student Mary Joyce Lattao. The new charges were filed Tuesday afternoon before the Manila Regional Trial Court, after assistant city prosecutor Liberato Cabaron found probable cause in a separate murder case against Marzo for allegedly killing a 57-year-old man last year. A witness in the slay of Pampanga native Danilo Liwanag came forward to police after seeing Marzo in the news for the killing of Lattao, a University of the Philippines student killed in a bus robbery on Feb. 15. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Trash ad in MMFF

THE METRO Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will run a 30-second advertisement during the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) starting Dec. 25 to Jan. 2. The ad will be played during the gaps of the eight films included in the MMFF. In the video, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando will explain how the door-to-door garbage collection works. It has tapped Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian and TV variety show host Joy Viado as talents. Since the members of the executive committee of the MMFF are from the Metro Manila Theater's Association, the running of the commercials will be for free. The door-to-door policy states that garbage should be collected on schedule right from a household's doorstep. The ringing of a brass bell signals the presence of the garbage truck. *Ruth L. Navarra*

Pranic healing

THE PRANIC Healers' National Retreat is scheduled Dec. 10-12 at the Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City. It will be attended by more than 200 pranic healers from all over the Philippines to experience healing, blessing and spiritual rejuvenation. The spiritual retreat will be guided by the founder and teacher, Grandmaster Choa Kok Sui. Choa, scientist and spiritual guru, authored the internationally acclaimed book "The Ancient Art and Science of Pranic Healing," which has been translated into over 30 languages and distributed in over 75 countries worldwide. Choa's teachings are an excellent synthesis of science and spirituality. All pranic healers may call the World Pranic Healing Foundation office, Tel Nos. 635-9733/687-2833, for registration.

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'Tis the Season to

Share a Load

Sabawat isa, Share-A-Load mo...

maaaring manalo ng G-Cash ngayong Pasko!

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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Beermen simply too tough for Hotdogs

By June Navarro

DANNY Seigle gave San Miguel Beer breathing room with back-to-back hits that eventually turned back Purefoods, 93-86, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Seigle's jumpers scuttled the TJ Hotdogs' final-half uprising and the Beermen went on to break a two-game losing skein.

"Leave him (Seigle) open and he'll make his shots. By the time you think about guarding him, he has already gotten his rhythm," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico.

Seigle, who missed his first nine shots from the field, made it 87-79 for SMB with two minutes left and finally broke the backs of the TJ Hotdogs, who leaned heavily on Kerby Raymundo and Jun Limpot.

After losing for the fourth time in as many meetings with the Beermen this year, the TJ Hotdogs fell to 7-7, two games behind the third-running Barangay Ginebra Kings (9-4).

In the second game, Red Bull battled back from 14 points down in the third period and tripped league-leading Talk 'N Text, 105-96, behind a pleasant surprise from veteran Nelson Asaytono.

Asaytono knocked in 14 of his 29 markers in the fourth to aid the come-from-behind victory.

Red Bull won its third straight and climbed to 6-7 while Talk 'N Text slipped to 10-4 after losing a third straight game.

Color developed in the second period when Mark Telan was fouled hard by Jimwell Torion. Telan complained about the foul and got an earful from Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

Telan then confronted Guiao and both of them engaged in a staring match. Guiao was later seen dishing out more words to Telan each time the Phone Pals center passed the Red Bull bench.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Basketball Association and the Basketball Association of the Philippines finally signed the memorandum of agreement for a four-year partnership that will be highlighted by the country's participation in the Asian Basketball Confederation men's championship.

The Scores

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 93—Belasco 26, Seigle 22, Racela 10, Ildefonso 10, Hontiveros 9, Villoria 6, Peña 4, Singson 2, Gahol 2, Gamboa 0.

PUREFOODS 86—Raymundo 20, Limpot 15, Yee 14, Castillo 14, Evangelista 13, Yap 8, Espinosa 2, Simon 0, Laure 0, Realubit 0, Hrabak 0.

Quarters: 18-20, 42-38, 67-60, 93-86

Second Game

RED BULL 105—Villanueva 30, Asaytono 29, Torion 10, Robinson 8, Baguio 8, Tugade 7, Lopez 5, Agapito 4, Basilides 2, Bernardo 2, Sese 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 96—Telan 26, Alapag 17, Pablo 16, Miller 12, Camaso 10, Ravena 7, Fran 5, De Ocampo 3, Salangsang 0, Belano 0.

Quarters: 26-20, 49-53, 69-78, 105-96.

PUREFOODS' KERBY Raymundo gave San Miguel's Danny Ildefonso (right) a lot of matchup problems, but still, the Hotdogs could not find answers to the Beermen's dominance over them this year. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Distrito turns self in to FBI

FORMER PBA player Rudy "The Destroyer" Distrito has surrendered to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in California.

Former PBA commissioner Emilio "Jun" Bernardino, under whose watch Distrito last played in the professional league, called it a hopeful sign that the ex-cager wants to clarify his involvement in a fatal stabbing incident in Las Vegas.

Distrito's surrender was relayed by his nephew, Cesar, who said the 46-year-old former Ginebra standout called family members in Bacolod to inform them of his surrender to the authorities to clear up his name.

"Tumawag na siya at sinabi niya na handa na siyang sumuko sa FBI (He called to let us know he has surrendered to the FBI)," said Cesar.

Cesar added that Distrito, who started his PBA career with the now defunct Crispa Redmanizers, is being aided by immediate relatives in California.

"It's a hopeful sign, especially for people like us who can only wish that this never happened," said Bernardino. "I'm just really hoping that at the end of the day, Rudy will be able to provide light that will lead to his vindication."

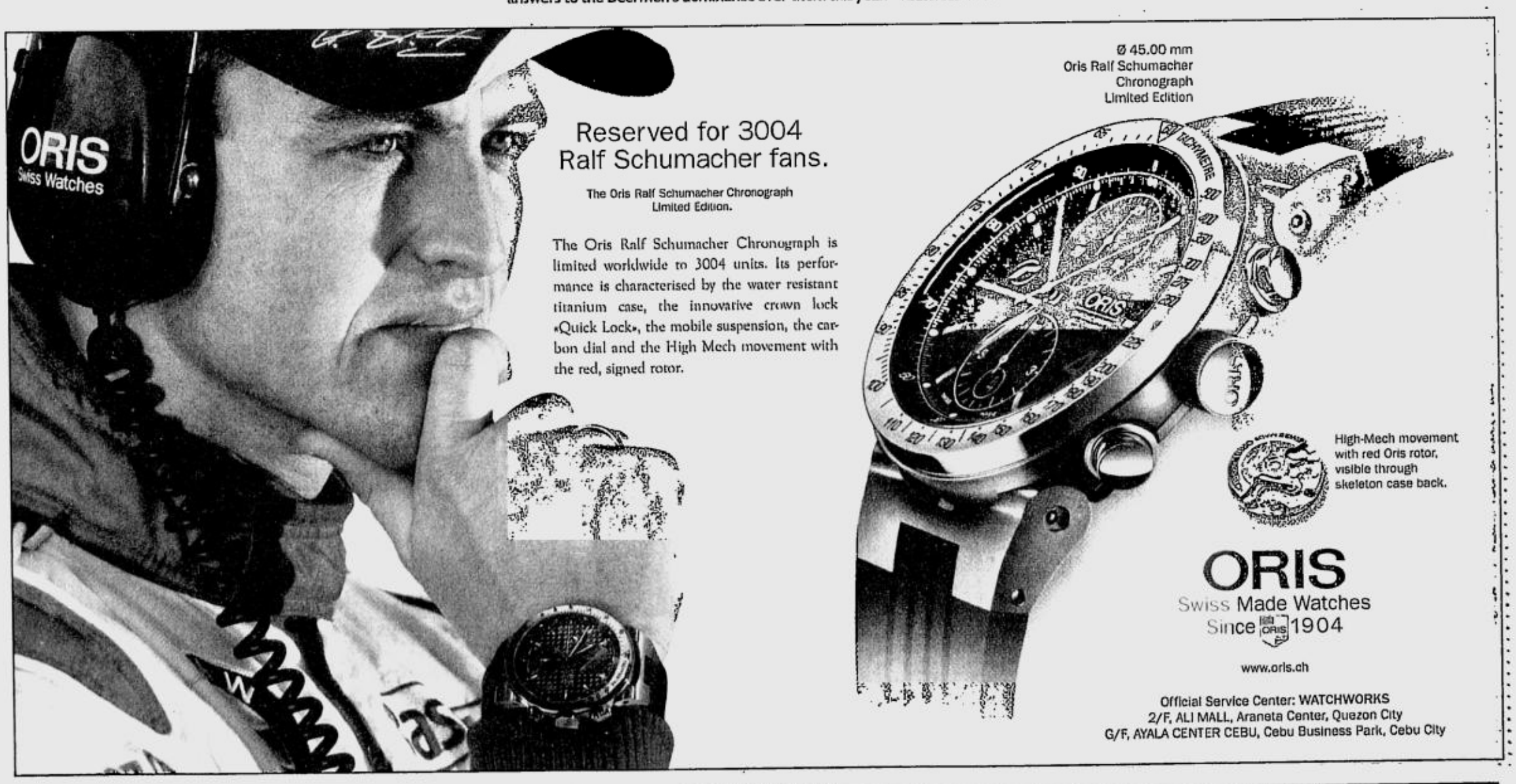
DISTRITO: Out to clear name

Reports from Las Vegas revealed that Distrito had given himself up to FBI agents and will soon be turned over to the Los Angeles Police Department.

LA public information officer Jason Lee said that once the FBI turns over Distrito to their department, extradition proceedings would immediately start.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department reported that Distrito stabbed a 24-year-old Mexican victim, later identified as Juan Amaya, several times after a supposed argument.

Amaya, it was learned, was the new husband of Distrito's former wife Joselyn. *With reports from Francis Ochoa, Marlon Bernardino*



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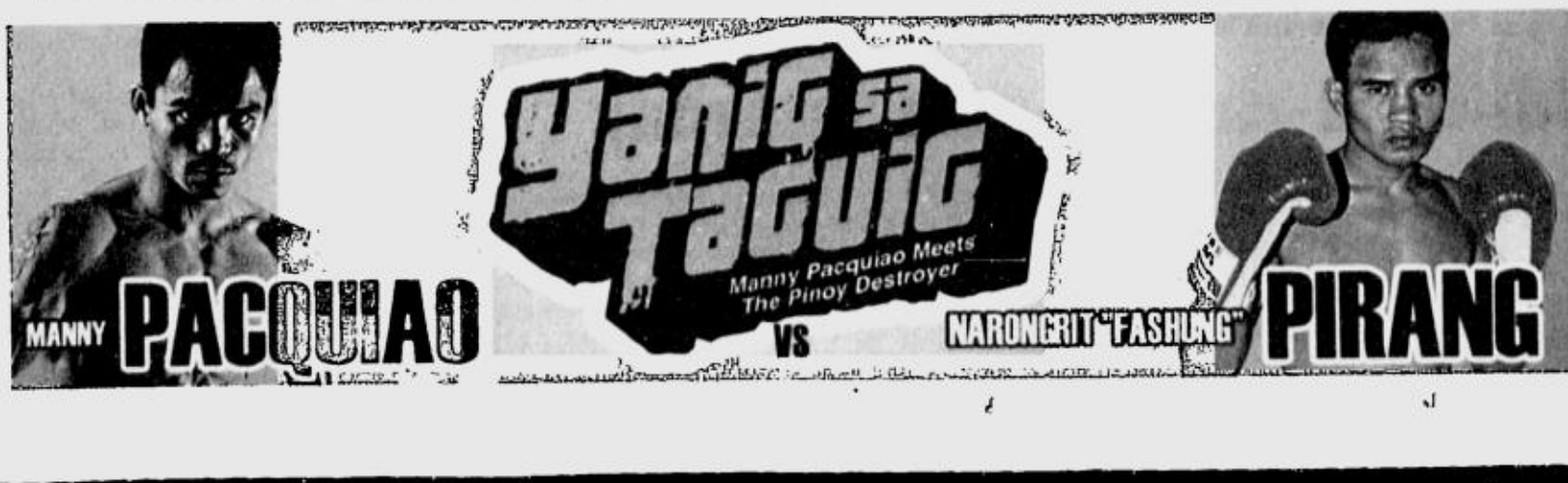


Inspired Jewels seek revenge

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia-FEU	7	3
Montaña	6	2
Granny Goose	6	3
Welcoat	5	4
Toyota Otis-Letran	4	6
AMP-Ateneo	3	5
ICTSI-La Salle	3	6
Air Philippines	2	7

GAMES TODAY (*UST Gym*)
2 p.m.—Montaña vs Granny Goose
4 p.m.—Air Philippines vs ICTSI-La Salle

THE MONTAÑA Jewels are definitely pumped up when they battle Granny Goose Tortillos in the PBL Open Championship today at the UST Gym.

Coach Robert Sison said his Jewels have been training hard to get back at the Tortillos, who ended their five-game winning run in the first round with a 79-72 decision.

"Our morale is high. Our practices have been good," said Sison, whose Jewels (6-2) gun for the solo lead against the dangerous Tortillos at 2 p.m.

"*Gusto talaga ng mga bata na makabawi* (The boys really want to win this time)," added Sison.

Meanwhile, Air Philippines (2-7) and ICTSI-La Salle (3-6) clash to avoid early elimination at 4 p.m.

The odds favor Montaña this time after Granny Goose absorbed its first back-to-back loss in the tournament last Tuesday.

But Sison knows that the Tortillos are capable of pulling surprises.

"They are hardworking and their defense is one of the best in the league," he observed. "For us to beat them, we have to play better defense and execute our play well."

"We have to win to boost our chances in the semis," said Sison, whose team is fighting for one of two outright semifinal slots with tournament leaders Granny Goose (6-3) and Magnolia-FEU (7-3).

"We're also keeping a close eye on Magnolia," added Sison. "They're playing great right now and that's my extra motivation for the boys."

The Jewels will again lean on veterans Alex Compton, Jon Dan Salvador and Al Magpayo, while the Tortillos will turn to JR Quiñahan, Ardy Larong, Jet Latonio and Chico Lanete.

In the second game, ICTSI-La Salle is favored to repeat its 96-77 drubbing of Air Philippines in the first round. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Filipino boxing prospects impress ring guru Roach

Pacquiao promises Saturday massacre

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT was one of the more amusing questions thrown at renowned American boxing trainer Freddie Roach.

Rev Santillan, the 26-year-old OPBF welterweight champion from Iloilo City, wanted to know if going to sleep right after a tiring bout can cause blindness.

"I don't think so," smiled Roach, who's conducting a free two-day boxing clinic at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. "There's really no medical proof."

Santillan was pleased with the answer. He later thanked Roach and asked for his autograph.

"My goal is to become a world champion," said Santillan, who trains with the Wakee Salud Stable in Cebu, in Filipino.

Santillan, who holds an impressive 50-3 win-loss record (40 KOs), definitely wants to learn more from the man who turned Manny Pacquiao into a boxing celebrity.

Like Santillan, there were a number of aspiring amateur boxers present at the clinic yesterday, all hoping to be the next Pacquiao. Roach believes that there is such a possibility.

"There are many great young prospects here," observed Roach, who has trained over 10 world champions, including Mike Tyson.

The 44-year-old trainer, in fact, pointed out that Filipino boxers are among the most hardworking lot he has seen. "American fighters get a little bit lazy," said Roach. "They're not hungry and they become spoiled. It's frustrating to see champs who are lazy."

Roach, who's been in the country for two weeks now, said he saw several promising talents while training Pacquiao for his bout with Thailand's Fahsan 3K Battery on Saturday at The Fort, Taguig.

"Here in the Philippines, I don't see anyone getting spoiled," added the 2003 trainer of the year. "Unlike in America, you guys here have a harder time growing up. That's why I like seeing guys like Manny achieving great things. He has great work ethics and he's not spoiled. I like that in a fighter."

Roach added he even told Pacquiao to slow down. "Manny is at the top of his game right now," he said. "In fact, he has a tendency to train too hard and I have to tell him not to overdo it."

"His work ethics is unbelievable," he added. "When you work hard, good things happen and Manny is proof of that."

"LET'S just see on Saturday night."

Shrugging off claims by the rival Thai camp that Manny Pacquiao is not in peak form, trainer Freddie Roach blurted out that dare yesterday.

Roach was reacting to statements credited to Fahsan 3K Battery that Pacquiao has not trained sufficiently for their big bout on Saturday.

However, Roach bared that Pacquiao, a dreaded southpaw, would be 100-percent ready on fight night and should be able to end the bout early, possibly with a right punch.

In fact, Pacquiao's slated four-mile jog was cut down to only two yesterday morning because the fighter's conditioning was already nearing perfection, the Filipino camp bared.

Pacquiao also did not do usual hard gym work and had only limbering exercises at the Wild Card Gym in Paranaque.

"*Abangan na lang sa Sabado* (Let's just wait for Saturday)," chorused Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's Filipino handler who said Roach would bare an even greater part of his training talent in today's clinic at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

After having observed Pacquiao during gym work Tuesday, the 30-year-old Fahsan said the Filipino had uneven sweating, which the Thai blamed on rushed, uneven training.

Upon hearing about the Thai claim, Pacquiao also said all questions should be answered on Saturday.

"*Mahirap panay usapan, sa Sabado na subukan* (Let's stop talking and settle things on Saturday)," said the Ring Magazine featherweight champ in predicting a massacre.

Fahsan's manager, Jimmy Chachotochuang, said Pacquiao, based on their findings, has trained thoroughly for only three weeks for the big match.

This means, the manager added, that although Pacquiao enjoys a big edge in speed and power, he could be beaten by Fahsan, who enters the ring an awful underdog.

The Thai camp had also bared that, instead of running in the first four rounds as initially planned, Fahsan would meet Pacquiao head-on after the first bell.

Also lending his expertise in the clinic today is Philippines-based referee Bruce McTavish of New Zealand.

Yesterday's participants included cadets from the Philippine Military Academy, coaches from the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) and trainers from the country's various boxing stables.

Also proving to be a big hit with the participants was sports nutritionist Dr. Sanirose Orbeta who lectured the participants on proper nutrition and dieting, among others.

Roach obviously enjoyed interacting with the participants, signing autographs and posing for photos.

FREDDIE ROACH: Unlike in America, you guys here have a harder time growing up. That's why I like seeing guys like Manny achieving great things.

Lack of sponsors continues to bug SEAG organizers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR every $100 spent by Vietnam in staging the 2003 Southeast Asian Games the Philippines will be spending only $4 in hosting next year's SEAG.

That, in a nutshell, describes the tight budget the country is working on in its third staging of the SEAG, although organizers continue to worry about the lack of sponsors so far.

"Companies this time of the year have already used up their budgets," Philippine Southeast Asian Games chief organizer Obet Pagdanganan told the Inquirer yesterday.

"Maybe we can start early next year to work out a marketing scheme to tap the private sector."

"From the start, we know that we are working on a tight budget, but that won't hinder us from making this a success," said Pagdanganan, who predicted a record-breaking number of live audience for the opening ceremonies which will be held at the Quirino Grandstand.

He said First Gentleman Mike Arroyo will launch a pledging session on Dec. 11 among officials of top government and private corporations but the proceeds of the fund-raising will be given to the 500 national athletes training for the Games and not to the SEA Games operations.

In new changes approved, equestrian will now be played in Lipa and not in Carmona, Cavite, while ladies football will be held in Marikina instead of the Ultra as previously planned.

Officials wanted to move Canoe/kayak to Subic from La Mesa Dam but Philsoc still has to determine whether the Subic site is up to international standards.

The 41 national sports associations taking part in the SEA Games were also given until Dec. 13 to declare the equipment they will be needing so the Philsoc can make arrangement with the Philippine Sports Commission.

Pagdanganan added that more than one television network might cover the Games instead of a solo coveror which is usually the practice.

Letran tossers gun for 2nd win vs SSC

STANDINGS	W	L
UST	3	0
PSC	3	1
La Salle	1	1
Letran	1	1
Lyceum	0	1
San Sebastian	0	2
FEU	0	2

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Letran
5 p.m.—FEU vs Lyceum

LETRAN seeks its second win today when it plays winless San Sebastian while Lyceum and Far Eastern University shoot for their first victory at each other's expense in the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Tied with the La Salle Lady Archers at No. 3 with 1-1 (win-loss) slates, the Letran spikers tackle the SSC belles at 3 p.m., hoping to inch closer to reigning champion Santo Tomas Tigresses (3-0) and the Philippine Sports Commission Lady Legends (3-1).

Backstopped by the power-hitting Roxanne Pimentel, UST outlasted PSC in a thrilling 18-25, 25-16, 17-25, 25-14, 15-9 victory Tuesday for its third straight win and the solo lead in this tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and co-presented by Dunkin Donuts, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives, Smart and PLDT with Mikasa and Accel as official volleyball and outfitter, respectively.

Lyceum and Far Eastern University collide at 5 p.m.

The Lady Pirates dropped its only match so far to the Lady Legends in four sets, 18-25, 19-25, 25-19, 13-25, last Nov. 30 while the Lady Tams are in the cellar with the SSC spikers with a 0-2 card.

La Salle, the back-to-back UAAP titlist, opened its campaign with a 21-25, 31-29, 21-25, 19-25 defeat to rival UST on Nov. 28 but bounced back strong and downed San Sebastian, 21-25, 25-14, 25-21, 25-17, late Tuesday for a share of third place with Letran.

REINFORCED: Two Filipino-Americans and two Filipino-Britons reinforce the Philippine football team currently seeing action in the 2004 Tiger Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The team backed by the PCSO and Pagcor bowed to Myanmar, 1-0, in extra time in their opening game last night.

Basketball greats immortalized in Bocobo-Celis book

A BOOK chronicling the greatest players of Philippine basketball, titled Legends and Heroes of Philippine Basketball, will be formally launched this Saturday at the ELJ Communications Center, ABS-CBN compound, Quezon City.

President Macagapal-Arroyo was presented with the book by the author, Dr. Christian Bocobo, during her visit in San Francisco two days before the formal book launch at the Marriott Hotel in California in November 2004.

Philippine Basketball Association chair Buddy Encarnado and Talk 'N Text governor Rickie Vargas graced the occasion. Former RP team mainstay Alberto "Big Boy" Reynoso and Dindo Pumaren were special guests.

The book is co-authored by Bocobo, a San Francisco-based Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation specialist, and Manila Bulletin sports columnist Beth Celis.

It has a rich collection and compilation of action photos and portraits of great Philippine basketball star players representing different eras.

Profiles of stars include the hometown and school teams they played for. Interesting facts abound in the book, including all-time records set by players in college and professional leagues.

First Gentleman holds fund-raiser again Saturday

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo again sets the ball rolling for the buildup of Pinoy athletes for next year's Southeast Asian Games through a pledging session this Saturday at the Heroes Hall in Malacañang.

Top executives from government and private firms have been invited to enlist their support in raising funds for the training of the first batch of athletes who passed the stringent criteria laid down by the Medalyang Ginto Executive Council of the First Gentleman Foundation.

A total of 248 athletes, most of them gold medalists in last year's Vietnam Southeast Asian Games and various international events, make up the first batch of beneficiaries to be known as "Team Tagumpay."

The breakdown of the initial beneficiaries: Diving 6, swimming 7, archery 3, athletics 8, baseball 22, men's basketball 17, billiards-snooker 3, boxing 5, bowling 12, canoe-kayak 5, chess 4, cycling 2, dragon boat 39, equestrian 2, fencing 9, golf 7, gymnastics 2, judo 3, karatedo 5, lawn bowls-petanque 12, muay thai 2, rowing 6, shooting 4, men's and women's softball 41, taekwondo 10, triathlon 5, wrestling 1 and wushu 6.

DEL ROSARIO

Del Rosario out front in World Cup

Chester King running 6th

SINGAPORE—Asia's best female bowler, Liza del Rosario of the Philippine, assumed the early third-day lead in the AMF Bowling World Cup at SuperBowl Safra Mount Faber here yesterday morning by collecting 3956 pinfalls in 18 games.

Del Rosario averaged 231.83 for the third of four six-game blocks to lead Squad B with an average of 219.78 for 18 games.

Sweden's Helen Johnsson could not match the pace and fell behind at 3867.

Singapore's Valerie Teo delighted the local fans by shooting the best 1442 series (240.33 average) to jump into third place at 3842.

Last year's runnerup, Costa Rica's Marie Ramirez, checked in fourth at 3873, while defending champion Kerrie Ryan Klach of Canada was fifth at 3762.

Australia's Jason Belmonte kept the men's lead after 12 games with 2927 pinfalls.

The Philippines' entry, Chester King, was tied with Italian Maurizio Celli for sixth place at 2738.

The best 24 bowlers from 73 countries after 24 games will advance to the second stage of the world's most prestigious individual kegfest.

Del Rosario began her move Tuesday when she jumped from 8th to fifth place after 12 games with 2818.

Overnight leader Ann-Maree Putney of Australia slipped to second at 2756, followed by American Shannon Pluhowsky at 2756, Johnson, Del Rosario, Austria's Ivonne Gross (2550) and Denmark's Annette Biltoft (2547).

Zulkifli may yet overtake Del Rosario when she plays in Squad A later in the day.

John Hay golfers lead Flight A of Fil-Am

BAGUIO CITY—Camp John Hay used its familiarity with the two home courses yesterday to take the lead in both divisions of Flight A in the 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational here.

Bill Lawrence scored 36 points under the Stableford scoring system, Jay Co added 30 and Federico Mandapat Jr., last week's senior individual champion, had 28 to give the host team a total of 125 Fil division points at the par-69 CJH course.

The Am squad of CJH also surged ahead with 101 points at the par-61 Baguio Country Club course as Charles Valencerina chalked up 28 points and Robert Paterson and Ramon Luis Garcia posted 26 each.

Philippine Navy kept the Fil Flight B lead with 105 while the Guam Kool Swingers pulled away with 171 in the Am Flight B race. The leading teams in Flight D were Hickam Mamala (Fil) with 110 points and Villa Cacho (Am) with 80.

As the tournament's crack players brace for a shootout in today's start of the Fil and Am action in the championship division, Benguet boy Gilroy Zambrano Cachero, now based in San Diego, California, also grabbed the spotlight by shooting the tournament's fifth hole-in-one on the 153-yard 15th hole at Camp John Hay.

It was Cachero's first ace in 10 years in the sport.

While Mizuno-DHL is the defending Fil champion and Manila Southwoods the reigning Am titlist, the favorites in the centerpiece categories are Nike Sports, spearheaded by the country's top amateur Juvic Pagunsan and the returning Tommy Manotoc, and Del Monte, which is fielding the same team that won the PAL Interclub last March.

The Pines Golf Club of California, composed of Baguio *balikbayans*, was second in Fil Flight A with 119 as Ramon Ocampo made 35 points and Fred Eslao Jr. added 33. The Philippine International Contractors and Ram Master Golf Team were joint third at 117.

Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III had 30 behind Richard Joson's 33 for fifth placer Nueva Ecija Golf Club. Team Isabela scored 112 while Neplum 2 was a point behind. BMG Solar and Orchard Golf and Country Club were in joint eighth with 109 points.

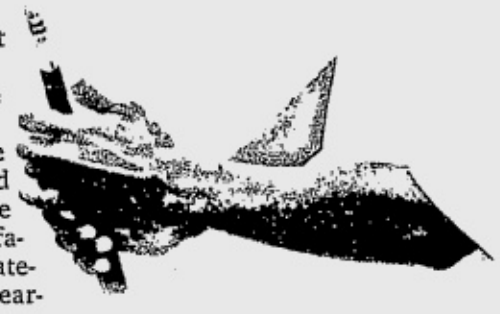
Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club and Team M-3 led by Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, shared second in Am Flight A with 95 points.

Meanwhile, Eat Bulaga climbed to sixth place in Flight B of the Fil Division after a scoring correction was made late Tuesday night.

Former Sen. Vicente Sotto III scored 28 while his brother, comedian Vic, scored 23 to give the Eat Bulaga team 93 points, just a point behind fifth placer Guam Kool Swingers.

Hickam Mamala scored 110 points behind Rusty Barfield's 30 points and Craig Penman's 29 in Fil's Flight D. Villa Cacho had 80 points as Am Flight D leader.

The tournament is sponsored by Smart, Lucerne Jewelers, Northwest Airlines, Royal Caribbean, Ottica Eyewear, Aresi Bar, Hapee Toothpaste, Ayala Lands, Caltex Philippines, Club Marinduque and San Miguel Beer. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*


PAGUNSAN swings into action for Nike Sports.

Snipers vs Jewelers Game 1 tomorrow

GAME TOMORROW
(Santo Domingo People's Center)
5 p.m.— Ilocos Sur Snipers
vs M. Lhuillier-Cebu City

THE M. LHUILLIER-CEBU City Jewelers have the experience and cohesion, the Ilocos Sur Snipers the depth and firepower.

Whoever can impose their edge upon the other stands a good chance of winning the opener of their United Regional Basketball League championship series tomorrow at the Santo Domingo People's Center in Ilocos Sur.

Game One starts at 5 p.m. and will be telecast over the National Broadcasting Network.

At stake in the best-of-five title showdown is the prestige of being the inaugural titlist of the community-based URBL.

This in mind, URBL Commissioner Ramon Fernandez announced that the battle for third place between the Quezon Huskers and Harbour Centre-Pampanga will be a fundraiser for the victims of the recent typhoons that hit the country.

The sudden-death knockout match will be played on Dec. 14, 4 p.m. at the University of Assumption Gym in San Fernando.

Harbour Centre team owner Mikee Romero initiated the campaign by donating a considerable amount while fellow URBL team owners Michel Lhuillier of M. Lhuillier-Cebu City, Vice Gov. Greg Sanchez, Rep. Junie Martinez and Joe Soberano of Lactovitale-Cebu Province and Gov. Chavit Singson and Vice Gov. DV Savellano of the Ilocos Sur Snipers sent their pledges to Quezon team owners Gov. Willie Enverga and Benny Brizuela.

A look at the lineups showed the Snipers have the edge at the frontline behind skipper Allan Yu, Jerome Barbosa, Orlan Tama, and Harold Sta. Cruz. They also have able gunners in Johnedel Cardel, three-point shooter Mike Manigo, Francis Rauschmayer and Jeff Sanders.

Jewelers coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba has a bench so deep that he can readily alter his player combinations.

He'll be banking on Woodraw Enriquez, Bruce Dacia, James Laygo, Bong Marata, Nyok de Guzman, Jessie Lumantas, Leo Bat-og, Danny Aying and Darryl Smith.

San Lorenzo advances

JEFFREY Lim provided the killer blows yesterday as Colegio de San Lorenzo earned a quarterfinal berth in the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball tournament at the Pasay Sports Complex.

Lim's 11-point output in the fourth quarter and the Colegio de San Lorenzo Griffins' fastbreak plays enabled them to put away La Salle-Manila, 71-53.

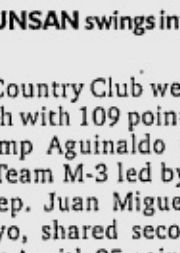
He unleashed three triples, which allowed the Griffins to widen the Archers' eight-point edge in the third quarter to 18.

Ken Rivera topscored for 15 points and powered the Griffins to their third win in four games in Group A, while JR Manansala and Chito Jaime made 11 and 10, respectively.

The Griffins move behind unbeaten squads Emilio Aguinaldo College and St. Francis.

Golfers all

SPECTATOR


Al S. Mendoza

THE BATTLE "begins" today in the 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational at both the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay. Not to belittle the presence of a spillover 165 teams but, truth to tell, the 13 teams vying for the top plums (Fil Championship with 6 squads, and Am Championship with 7) start to get the usual media mileage the next four days.

Unfair?

Not really to the 820 other players out of a field of 888 entered.

The stars of the show always get the spotlight because they deserve it. And we are talking here of 68 players from the Fil and Am Championship Divisions.

They earned it. Each one of them is a star in his own right. You don't hype the front act of either Martin Nievera or Lani Misalucha do you? Always, the main performer gets top billing.

While the Fil-Am as a whole is basically fun-and-social, exclude the Championship Divisions of Fil and Am.

Over there, competitors go for gore, thirst for blood, battle to survive. When the war's over, there will be no love lost among the combatants.

Over there, they temporarily set aside the adage: "The beauty lies not in winning, but in taking part."

But who will the golf gods favor this year?

It's hard to tell.

The field is littered with teams fancied to win the crown of this fabled tiff that was once listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's biggest ever golf tournament.

By Sunday, we will know if defending champion Mizuno-DHL has survived the challenge of such powerhouse teams like Del Monte, Nike and Southwoods in the premiere Fil Championship Division where Royal Caribbean International and Eastridge are also entered.

This has got to be the most interesting Fil-Am in recent memory. The last three years was mainly a two-team competition: Mizuno-DHL versus Southwoods-Southwoods won the first two, Mizuno-DHL the last one.

The return of Tommy Manotoc, who broke his three-year vow never "to return again to the Fil-Am" after his Calatagan team lost to Southwoods in 2000, has injected a new dimension to the tournament. It can't be denied that Tommy Manotoc, even at 55, still packs that wallop that remains the envy of many.

Not only did he return waving the white flag. Tommy Manotoc, rebaptizing his Calatagan squad as Nike, is back in the company of players a.k.a. as national players, save for one: recent Thailand Amateur Open champion Juvic Pagunsan, reigning Philippine champion Jun Bernis, RP mainstays Jay Bayron and Boyet Saragosa and the battle-scarred Abe Rosal.

Mizuno-DHL has lost Romy Jaraula, Tristan Tabanas and Paul Miñoza, who now carry their home team, Del Monte, the 2004 PAL Interclub champion.

Lovell Gopez, the youthful Mizuno-DHL skipper, will now lean on a team known to scavenge for gold from garbage: Erwin Vinluan, Marvin Dumandan, Raymund Sangil, Laurence Negrido and Kit Lopez. Southwoods has World Amateur veterans Mike Bibat and Artemio Murakami, who will team up with Antonio Asistio, Jun Jun Plana and World Amateurs alternate Gene Bondoc.

But even as they are the headline hogs beginning today, the 68 so-called stars will just be among the 888 players during the awarding ceremonies on Sunday. Competing is one thing, being together on awarding night is another. In that night of nights, each and everyone is just simply called a golfer.

The winners become mere decorations.

***

FASTBREAK. My good neighbor, Wilmer "Pink Basket" Embuscado, has left his catering chores momentarily to assume anew his job as skipper of Batch '92. His players—Jose Santos Jr., Narciso Ragua, Teddy Tan, Yasuhiko Omeda and Phillip Bautista—are serious contenders in Flight C of the Am Division. And, of course, my fellow Beatlemaniac, Nilo Mercado of Publicis Dialog/Shoe Mart, has brought in his own bold brigade—Theody Pascual, Al Etrone, Ludwig Ledesma, Ding Kalinga, Eric Jaudines and Teddy Quizon in Fil C Division, and Mike Gonzales, August Mendoza, Tony Villanueva, Eric del Rosario and Boy Galiste in Am D Division. Nilo's squads are running second in their divisions. Good luck, gentlemen!

SPORTSWATCH

King, Gatchalian seeded for Salad Cup

RP TEAM members Chester King and Joonie Gatchalian were seeded to represent the Philippines on Feb. 2005 in Okinawa, Japan for the 2005 Salad Cup. Joining them are the top two bowlers of the 2004 Wave-Salad Cup national finals to be held Dec. 11 and 12 at Playdium Bowling Center in Quezon City. More than 70 center finals winners, led by Biboy Rivera and Benny Dytoc, will vie for the last two slots. Winners of the first center finals will compete against the first group on Dec. 11 at 9 a.m., while winners of the second center finals will be up against the second group at 1 p.m. The top 30 will dispute the two other Okinawa slots on Dec. 12. For details, call Angelo Constantino at 7320289 and 7320304 or log on to www.playdiumbowling.com.

Las Piñas derby features 50 fights

FIFTY encounters are scheduled tonight at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum in connection with the "3-Cock Derby." At stake is a cash prize of P300,000 with an entry fee of P5,500. Derby hosts are Julius Canumay and Vetsin Damian. Seeing action today are Mike Santos of Parañaque, Joseph jamboy of Butuan City, JOhnny Elorde, Arnold Perez, Bobby Cabillion, Ace Reyes of Antipolo, Art and Baldo Perez, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Muling Dorado, Rudy Sayaman and Cito Manansala. Meanwhile, a guaranteed prize of P1 million is up for grabs in the "Pamigay Premyo sa Las Piñas 5-Cock Derby" to be hosted by former Mayor Nene Aguilar. Elimination rounds will be held on Jan. 8, 15 and 22. For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Codilla family presents Ormoc 5-cocker

THUNDERRBIRD Platinum and Thunderbird Baby Stag Booster give their full support as the Codilla family of cockfighters of Ormoc City presents the 2004 edition of their annual 5-Cock X'mas Derby. Regarded as the biggest yearly cocking event in Ormoc, the 3-day encounter will again be held at the Valencia Sports Center. Like in the previous years, lots of surprises are in store for the Dec. 15, 16 & 18 contest led by Thunderbird's local business developer Chester Ma. Entry fee is pegged at P12,000 for the P1 million guaranteed cash prize. Meanwhile, the Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate & Conditioner-backed Bicol Gamefowl Breeders Association will hold the BIGBA Circuit Final 4-Cock Derby on Dec. 18 in Legazpi City.

Negros stuns Iloilo, clinches futsal title

ILOILO CITY—Negros Occidental outsmarted and outshot archrival Iloilo, 8-6, Tuesday to rule the first PFF-adidas Futsal Championship before a stunned crowd at the Iloilo Sports Complex.

The Negrenses' dominance in the five-a-side indoor football meet was unmistakable with Richard Cañedo producing yet another virtouso performance by scoring all his three goals in the second half.

Crisp passing and excellent defense lifted Negros to the title of the eight-team tournament supported by WG&A Superferry, Aboitiz, Petron and Red Ribbon Bakeshop.

The Negrenses reached the finals by whipping Cagayan de Oro, 19-4, earlier in the day. Iloilo advanced by nipping Cebu, 9-8.

"The Negrenses deserve the championship because they displayed better skills," said tournament commissioner Pablito Araneta. "But I'm sure Iloilo will prepare harder next time to get back at Negros."

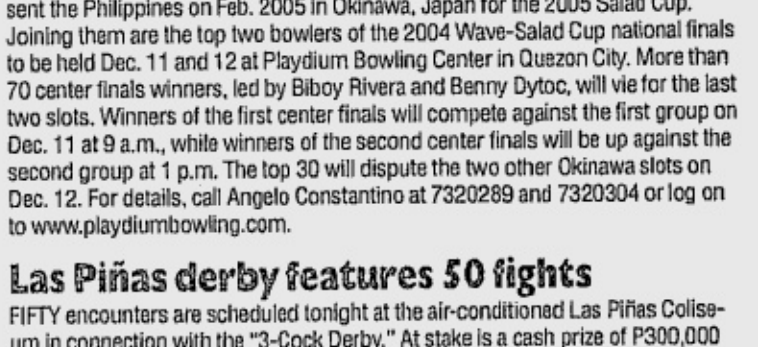
With the score tied at 6-6, Cañedo eluded his markers and outwitted Iloilo goalkeeper Cirilo Macasa for the 34th-minute marker that put Negros in front to stay.

Cañedo struck again in the next minute, deftly flicking the ball in past Macasa. Cañedo's effort earned him MVP honors while his brother, Robert, was named best striker with 16 goals.

Robert found the back of the net in the 25th minute while the Fegidero brothers—Joshua and Norman—added one apiece.

Cebu settled for third place by routing Cagayan de Oro, 19-4, and also received the Fair Play Award.

Macasa was the tournament's best goalkeeper.


TOP COACHES: Franz Pumaren (left), coach of UAAP champion De La Salle Green Archers, poses with Syracuse University mentor Jim Boehim after completing a two-week coaching course in the United States recently. Boehim ranks third among active Division I coaches in winning percentage and eighth in victories. He is also the winningest coach in Big East history with a 297-161 overall record. Pumaren, on the other hand, steered the Archers to five titles in the last seven years.

CHARLOTTE'S Steve Smith grabs Sacramento center Brad Miller's headband. AP

KOBE'S FAULT

Malone rules out return to LA Lakers

LOS ANGELES—Karl Malone has ruled out a return to the Los Angeles Lakers because of comments made by Kobe Bryant in a radio interview, Malone's agent said.

"Karl is furious," agent Dwight Manley said Tuesday. "He felt very disrespected and betrayed after personally being the first to stand up for Kobe over the last year throughout his rape charge and all he went through."

Manley said remarks made by Bryant on Monday, coupled with what the agent called "recent personal attacks made in private," led Malone to his decision.

Asked if Malone might play elsewhere, Manley replied: "This certainly opens up that possibility."

Bryant told XTRA on Monday he didn't believe Malone, who is recovering from knee surgery, would come back to the Lakers, calling it "just intuition."

"It's not really fair to hold it over the guys' heads that are here," Bryant said. "The guys that we have here are working hard, practicing hard every day. It's kind of tough for them to be looking over their shoulder, wondering if he's going to come back and then everybody is going to disappear.

"They are here giving me 110 percent. It's really not fair for us to sit around and speculate how long this is going to go on. I mean, you can't sit up here and speculate for the remainder of the season whether or not he is going to come back. I mean, that's not fair to the guys that are working here." *AP*

Cavs rise in East; Rockets blast off

CLEVELAND—LeBron James scored 27 points and assisted on Lucious Harris' clinching 3-pointer with 6 seconds left Tuesday as the first-place Cleveland Cavaliers won their eighth straight at home, 103-97, over the New Jersey Nets.

At 12-6, the Cavaliers have the best record in the NBA's Eastern Conference—the first time they've had that distinction after 15 games since March 21, 1989, when they were 48-17.

"I feel like we're a good team right now and we're going to keep going," said James.

After his two free throws put the Cavaliers up 97-93 with 1:35 to play, James stole Richard Jefferson's crosscourt pass and streaked in for a thunderous slam dunk.

The Nets pulled within 100-97 on Jason Collins' tip with 30.9 seconds to go, but James fed Harris for the trey.

In Minneapolis, Dirk Nowitzki scored 34 points, including 23 in the second half as Dallas snapped Minnesota's five-game winning streak with a 97-87 victory.

Kevin Garnett had 32 points, 12 rebounds and five assists for Minnesota, which was playing without starter Latrell Sprewell, who was suspended for one game for yelling a sexual vulgarity at a female fan in Los Angeles on Saturday night.

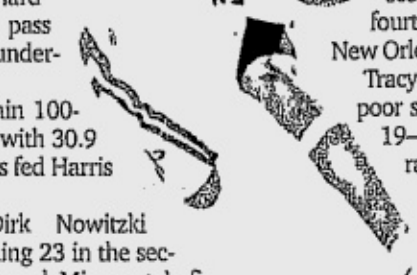
In Indianapolis, Michael Redd scored 28 points to lead Milwaukee past Indiana, 89-86, for its first road win of the season.

It was the fifth straight loss for the Pacers, the longest losing streak for Indiana under second-year coach Rick Carlisle.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Earl Watson scored a career-high 22 points, missing only one of his 10 shots, and Mike Miller added 20 as Memphis tripped New York, 96-88.

In Houston, Yao Ming scored 21 points and had nine rebounds, and backup point guard Andre Barrett scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter as Houston downed New Orleans, 89-81.

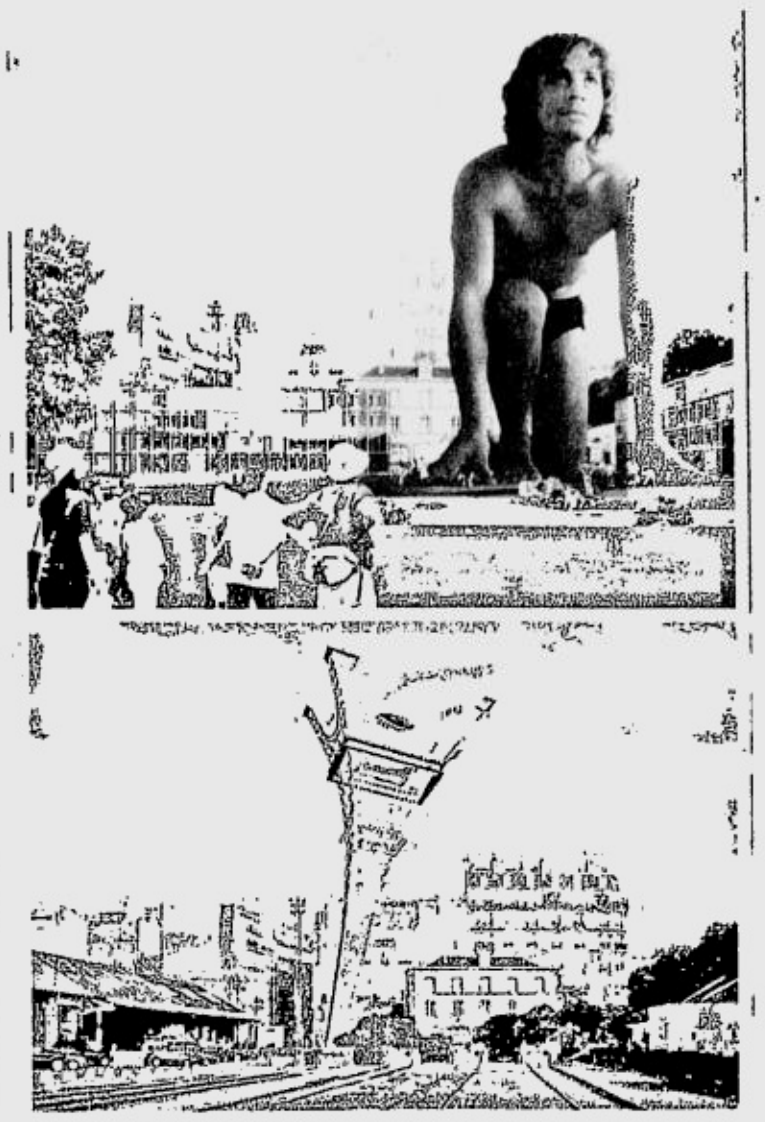
Tracy McGrady had his second straight poor shooting night, shooting just 7-of-19—including 1-of-8 from 3-point range—to finish with 18 points.



MCGRADY

In Phoenix, Steve Nash had 11 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, when Phoenix rallied from seven points down to frustrate Golden State, 118-104.

In Sacramento, California, Peja Stojakovic had season highs of 30 points and 12 rebounds, and Brad Miller scored 27 points as Sacramento whipped Charlotte, 109-92, for its 12th victory in 13 games. *AP*



OLYMPIC COME-ONS
Two artists' conceptions show a giant runner and an inverted Eiffel Tower during the Olympic Landmark designs show. The Paris 2012 organization launched an international architecture competition as part of the Paris bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games. REUTERS

PHYSICIANS try to revive Carlos Meza. REUTERS

Knocked-out Colombian boxer dies

PANAMA CITY, Panama—Colombian boxer Carlos Meza died Tuesday, four days after being knocked out in the ring, according to boxing officials.

"Unfortunately, Meza has died," said Miguel Prado, president of Panama's Boxing Commission.

Meza, 26, never regained consciousness after being knocked out in the 12th round of a bantamweight bout against Panamanian Ricardo Cordoba on Friday in the Atlantic port city of Colon.

Dr. Winston Grenald, the boxing commission's physician, said Meza had died as a result of a coma induced by three skull fractures and the accumulation of fluid on the brain. He said doctors "did all they could" to save the fighter from Barranquilla, Colombia.

Doctors said earlier Tuesday that Meza had suffered "brain death," and that they were only waiting for vital signs from his internal organs to cease in order to issue a formal death certificate.

Doctors here are forbidden from disconnecting life support systems as long as a patient's organs are working.

The bantamweight fighter underwent an operation on Saturday to ease swelling from cerebral bleeding, according to a hospital news release.

Meza was reportedly undefeated in eight fights before the bout against Cordoba. He was listed as the 14th ranked contender by the World Boxing Association.

Meza's wife, Luz Mery Torres, said her husband had hoped to buy a house for his family.

"I don't understand what happened. He was well prepared," the weeping Torres said.

Fellow boxer Irene "Mambaco" Pacheco said, "Carlos always liked close-in fights, and he was devoted to his wife and two children." *AP*

When popularity and quality diverge

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ONE of the big hits on the local film scene this year is "BCuz of U." What accounts for its good showing at the tills, and how does the movie rate on point of quality?

First, the "hit" factors: It's a teen flick, and there are millions of teenagers out there. It's also a *kilig* production, so it's easy for all those teens to empathize with.

In addition, the film has three stories, and that speaks directly to the shorter attention span of young people these days. The production's anthology format also means greater variety, and that's another plus as far as young viewers are concerned.

Another big draw is the movie's romantic-comedy-drama orientation, resulting in lightweight entertainment that some producers believe is what today's hard times welcome most.

But the most potent attraction is the movie's stellar casting, with not one but three young love teams—**Kristine Hermosa-Diether Ocampo, Heart Evangelista-Geoffrey Eigenmann, and Sandara Park-Hero Angeles.**

In this regard, the biggest draw is the Sandara-Park tandem, thanks to their youth, and her epitomizing the Asian wave that's the current hot trend in entertainment.

All of these plus popularity points, plus Star Cinema's unrivaled publicity and promotional muscle, account for the movie's unusually strong showing at the tills.

Now, what about quality? The main problem with the film in this regard is its constricting TV orientation.

This can be attributed to the fact that its three directors cut their teeth on TV productions, hence the relative narrowness of their vision.

This is a major limitation, because the movie looks too small for the big movie screen. In general, film requires greater complexity, range and depth than TV, and those elements are what are lacking in "BCuz of U." (—Which, by the way, is an apt title for the movie, because its rendering is as constricted as the production's scope, or lack of it.)

Other limitations emanate from the inadequate scripting, especially in the Kristine-Diether episode, where Kristine's all-important decision to jilt Diether on their wedding day isn't sufficiently motivated and explained.

Inadequacies like this in turn limit the actors' performances, because they make them come off as illogical, instead of believable and thus empathetic and involving.

Given the movie's limited intentions, it's the Sandara-Hero tandem's joint performance that comes off best—not because they're the finest actors in the bunch, but because they're at least sprightly and sassy enough to tickle their youthful audience's collective funnybone.

On the other hand, the production's rigorously youthful orientation makes Kristine and Diether look like relative old fogeys, despite the fact that they're still in their 20s. Ouch! This film version of instant obsolescence has to be avoided at all cost!

'Bunso' premiere

IF YOU'RE genuinely interested in boosting Filipino filmmaking at its best, go out of your way to catch the screening of **Ditsi Carolino's** latest documentary, "Bunso," at the UP Film Center at 2, 4 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 10.

"Bunso" is about minors who have been

WHEN/ A30

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Find out why the critics are laughing out loud!

"One of the year's best films!" -Lisa Y. Thompson, YAHOO! MOVIES.COM

"Lewd, raunchy & likely to spawn a sequel or two." -Colin Souter, EFILMCRITIC

"It's freakin' hilarious." -Kathy Cano-Murillo, ARIZONA REPUBLIC

"an epic pothead movie with laughs and smarts" -Laura Clifford, FEELING REVIEWS

"Made me laugh loud and often as much if not more than any other movie I've seen this year." -Kevin N. Laforest, MONTREAL FILM JOURNAL

"When the 90 minutes are up, you'll likely wonder why you laughed so hard and so often at something so silly." -Louis B. Hobson, JAM! MOVIES

"Laugh-out-loud!" -Carrie Rickey, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

"This new comedy offers 'American Pie' type teen humor." -Vince Koehler, ENTERTAINMENT SPECTRUM

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GET NAUGHTY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

BAD SANTA

BILLY BOB THORNTON BERNIE MAC LAUREN GRAHAM

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2046

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what to watch

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SM Bacoor Cinema 4 · SM Cebu Cinema 2 · SM Marilao Cinema 2
SM Davao Cinema 5 · SM Batangas Cinema 1 · SM Dasmariñas Cinema 2

MTRCB Rating: PG 13 BRIDGET JONES 2
SM Batangas Cinema 4 · SM Dasmariñas Cinema 1 · SM Iloilo Cinema 1

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS MTRCB Rating, G
SM Bacoor Cinema 8 · SM Dasmariñas Cinema 3 · SM Baguio Cinema 2

BUNNY GUARDS SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Pampanga Cinema 1

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB Rating, G
SM Batangas Cinema 1 · SM Bacoor Cinema 2 · SM Davao Cinema 2 · SM Iloilo Cinema 4 · SM Cebu Cinema 6 · SM Cagayan Cinema 1 · SM Baguio Cinema 1 · SM Pampanga Cinema 4 · SM Lucena Cinema 2

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB RATING, G
SM Iloilo Cinema 3 · SM Bacoor Cinema 6

SANTA SANTITA MTRCB Rating PG13
SM Bacoor Cinema 7

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ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	1 GEORGE & THE DRAGON	1 2046	5 THE POLAR EXPRESS	1 NATIONAL TREASURE	1 THE FORGOTTEN
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	2 PASIYAM	2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 BIRTH	2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	2 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
3 ALEXANDER	3 BIRTH	3 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	7 ALEXANDER	3 2046	3 CELLULAR
4 2046		4 ONE MISSED CALL		4 BIRTH	4 TAXI
5 BIRTH	4 NATIONAL TREASURE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		5 THE INCREDIBLES	5 FIRST DAUGHTER
		1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON			
		2 BIRTH			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
ISUZU CAR EXHIBIT December 6 to 12, 2004	ALADDIN & JASMINE GETS STARSTRUCK December 10 to 12, 2004	ROYAL OAKS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM December 9, 2004

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Greenbelt 2	Greenbelt 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring PIDO December 9, 7:00pm to 10:00pm	CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT GREENBELT 3 U.P. Singing Ambassadors (Dec. 11), U.P. Concert Chorus (Dec. 12)

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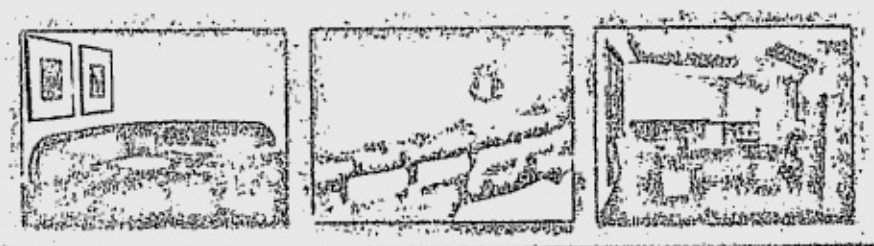

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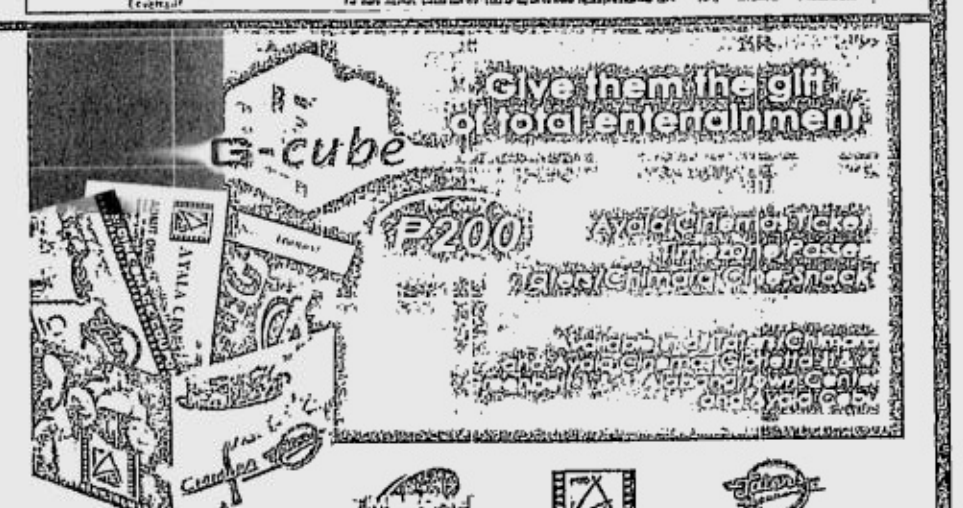
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2004 NU107 ROCK AWARDS

Yoyoy jammed while Yoyong howled, and cops found Ecstasy

By Irene C. Perez and Marinel R. Cruz

IT WAS a wet night, but it rocked.

Supertyphoon "Yoyong" did not stop hordes of artists, rockers, groupies, fans and wannabes from braving the fierce winds and trooping to the World Trade Center for the 2004 NU107 Rock Awards last Thursday night.

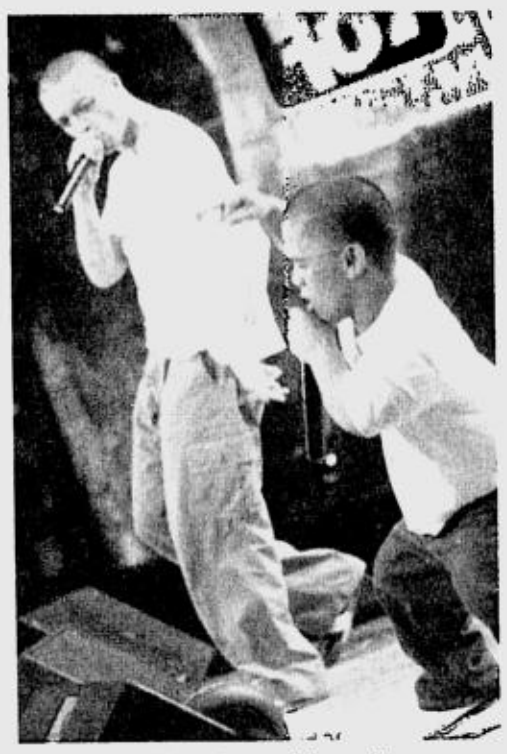
Radioactive Sago Project opened the event, called "Unsilent Night"—which featured 16 awards, 15 bands, one foreign act, one mad downpour and thousands of damp bodies—with the cha-cha piece "Astro" and a beer-smashing skit.

Four-man band Bamboo is the night's big winner, bagging the awards for Artist of the Year, Song of the Year for "Noypi," Drummer of the Year for Vic Mercado and Listeners Choice.

"It's a big win for the rock scene, for Filipino music," said frontman Bamboo Mañalac.

Bamboo, who left the band Rivermaya some years ago, is pretty much delighted to be back in the music circuit. "I love the crowd," he declared. "It's my job, I love what I do."

This married guy said there's no issue between Bamboo and present-day Rivermaya boys who performed "Liwanag sa Dilim," a potential videoke classic which most people in the audience already know by heart.



BIG WINNER Bamboo, with vocalist Bamboo Mañalac looms like a giant

"We're good," said Bamboo. "Mark [Escueta] and Rico [Blanco] are my still friends, no matter what."

Surprise act

The Brit rock act The Barbs made a surprise appearance at the end of the show and performed "Massive Crush," much to the paying-patrons' delight.

"The local rock scene here is amazing," said vocalist Amy Casey. "It's more than we expected. Everyone here is passionate about what they do. They really jump around. People are going f***king crazy!"

Hot babes are Rock Awards staples, and this year's pack included models Rissa Samson, Nicolette Bell, Cindy Kurleto and Reema Chanco, movie sexpots Ara Mina, Asia Agcaoili and Julia Clarete, and teen star Chynna Ortaleza.

So what's the controversy this year? You choose: Asia suggestively rubbing NU107 president Atom Henares' belt buckle and holding out a dildo-like contraption; Nathan giving Tim Yap a big hearty hug; or Yoyoy Villame in a green jacket and Santa's hat jamming with Tropical Depression, Joey "Pepe" Smith and Jr. Kidlat in a reggae act.

Yes, Yoyoy Villame was there with Typhoon Yoyong.

Winners all

"Influence," Urbandub's second album, won Album of the Year. No mean feat for this indie band that shuttles between Cebu and Manila for gigs.

"Astro" by Radioactive Sago Project won Best Rock Video. Mohawk-sporting director R.A. Rivera, set to do videos for Drip ("Song #9"), Imago ("Taning") and Sago ("Mr. Pogi in Space"), was quite busy with the booze backstage that he almost didn't make it to say his thanks.

Still backstage, <s>andwich drummer Mike Dizon grimaced in pain from severe muscle pain, and spent a couple of hours on his back, prompting his band mates to call medical help.

Mike said it was due to stress and lack of sleep, but refused hospitalization and insisted on performing after finally propping himself up. He was still able to pound the drums for <s>andwich on "2 Trick Pony."

The band won Producer of the Year for their indie album "Thanks to the Moon's Gravitational Pull."

"Raymund [Marasigan] worked his ass off," said <s>andwich and Kjwan vocalist Marc Abaya. "And it was a turning point in our career because our record company dumped us and we started from zero."

He said it's now straight indie for the band. "It's hard to get a record deal unless you're as big as Bamboo," Marc said. "And there's a lot more money in going indie."

'No sellouts'

Jerome Velasco of The Mongols was voted Guitarist of the Year and Buddy Zabala of Twisted Halo and Cambio was Bassist of the year. Slapshock, which got the mosh slamming when they did "We Are One," won Best Album Packaging for "Novena."

FOLK FATHER Yoyoy makes merry

R.A. Rivera, Rock Video of the Year director for Radioactive Sago Project's "Astro"

KJWAN and <s>andwich main man Marc Abaya on winning Producer of the Year for "Thanks to the Moon's Gravitational Pull": "This is great, after our former record company dumped us."

AMAZED. Brit act The Barbs in surprise appearance

A moment of silence was observed for two guitarists who died this year: Kapatid's Chico Molina who shot himself and Greyhoundz's Allan Cudal who was in a car accident.

Goth band The Late Isabel was the In the Raw awardee. Rock veterans The Jerks were not present to accept their Hall of fame award.

Recently signed-up pop-rock act Orange and Lemons was voted Best New Artist.

As for those who accuse the band of selling out, frontman Marco Fundales said going over to Universal Records from Terno Recordings was an experimental move.

"If it works out, OK; if not, we're going back to being indie," said Marco. "Sellouts? We don't have any money yet."

Two new awards were given out this year: Rising Sun Award for Sponge Cola and Female Rock Icon Award for Cynthia Alexander. Unfortunately, both were a no-show.

Cambio and Chicosci, a band pretty popular with high school girls, performed. So did Kjwan, 6 Cycle Mind, Sugarfree, Ciudad, The Dawn and Kitchie Nadal.

Judges included Martin Galan, acoustical engineer, consultant and former The Dawn manager; Jack Madrid, MTV general manager; Christine Fonacier, MTV Ink editor; Jaime Fabregas, theater and movie actor; Myra "Skarlet" Ruaro, Brownbeat All Stars vocalist; Ray abella, musical arranger; Chikoy Pura, The Jerks frontman; Patrick Reidenback of Club Dredd; and Wally Gonzales, Juan de la Cruz Band bassist.

While tickets were sold for this year's Rock

YOYOY/ A30

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THE BRITISH EMPIRE BRANDED THEM AS OUTLAWS. THE OPPRESSED CALLED THEM HEROES.
ORLANDO BLOOM NAOMI WATTS HEATH LEDGER
NED KELLY
PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1

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NOW SHOWING
A HAUNTING THRILLER THAT WILL KEEP YOU GUESSING UNTIL THE VERY END.
SHE WISHED HER HUSBAND WOULD COME BACK FROM THE DEAD. NOW, HE IS BACK.
NICOLE KIDMAN
Birth

NOW SHOWING
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Death Cannot Be Put On Hold .....
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2004

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**
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GMA 7: WE DID NOT BREAK THE LAW

Amalia protests Imbestigador's 'invasion'

"BEING PART of the media doesn't give them access to every nook and cranny of my home," says Amalia Fuentes.

"WE SIMPLY reported the story," says "Imbestigador" host Mike Enriquez.

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER actress Amalia Fuentes last Tuesday said she was preparing to file a complaint against GMA 7's investigative program "Imbestigador" for taking video footage inside her rest house in Nasugbu, Batangas, without her permission.

"Being part of the media doesn't give them access to every nook and cranny of my home," the feisty actress told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview. "They can only come inside when I tell them so."

According to a statement GMA 7 sent to INQUIRER Entertainment last Tuesday, "Imbestigador" aired a story last Saturday on a 15-year-old boy who claimed to have been "forced to serve Fuentes for months, allegedly as payment for a bracelet that [Fuentes] lost."

The "Imbestigador" report also said Fuentes did not allow the boy out of her house and refused to let his mother in when she came to visit her son.

Documenting rescue

According to the statement, "Imbestigador," merely "documented" the boy's "rescue," which had been conducted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"The cameraman, with the permission of the caretaker, accompanied the boy to his quarters and took video footage of the boy while he was packing his things," the statement said. "The boy is now in the custody of the DSWD," the statement said.

"We're very sure that we neither violated any law nor offended the sensibilities of the viewers because of our report," declared broadcaster and "Imbestigador" host Mike Enriquez.

But Fuentes insisted that the staff members of "Imbestigador" did not inform anyone of their intention to take video footage of the boy inside her house.

"One of my house helps even said he was pushed aside when he tried to stop the cameraman," Fuentes added. "Because of what happened, I intend to have the security guards of this subdivision investigated, too. Why were these people allowed entry even when nobody approved of it?

"We made an effort to get both sides," Enriquez told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview last Sunday. "That's the standard process in every story. Our researchers called her twice, but she refused to answer."

But Fuentes, who said she had just arrived from a trip to Europe last Dec. 1, said "Imbestigador" kept calling her house while she was away but not when she came back. "Because they knew I would not be able to talk to them," she pointed out. "You know, I will not look for a fight but I will never run away from one."

"Imbestigador" said it acted on a phone call it had received through its Imbestigador Action Center. "We immediately started research work on it," said the statement. "We interviewed the boy's parents and referred the case to the DSWD and the PNP."

"We simply reported the story," Enriquez pointed out. "We focused on the facts of the case. We had no other agenda. As for her complaint, we'll let our lawyers handle it. We can only comment on the facts at hand."

According to Fuentes, singer Ima Castro, one of her tenants, owns the "stolen" bracelet.

"We were able to recover it because the boy admitted to pawning it for P10,150. *Tinubos ko pa nga*," she explained. "He took it while he was cleaning Ima's place. Ima said she also lost money at that time."

Mother's choice

Because of the incident, Fuentes said she took the boy and his mother to the police, which recommended the filing of qualified theft against the boy.

The first hearing was set on Dec. 2, but was reset to Jan. 2, said Fuentes.

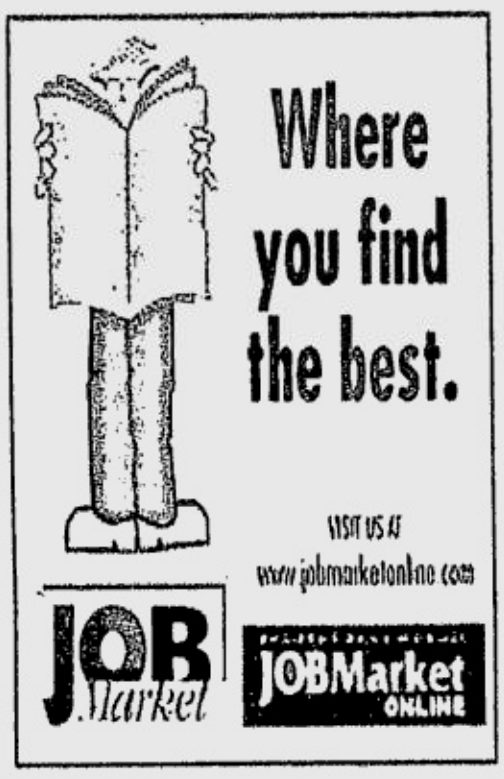
"When I found out that he was just a minor, I made his mother choose between putting the boy behind bars and paying for the things he stole," she said. "She said she'd pay for it. But they don't know where to get the money. She had no choice but to leave the boy to me.

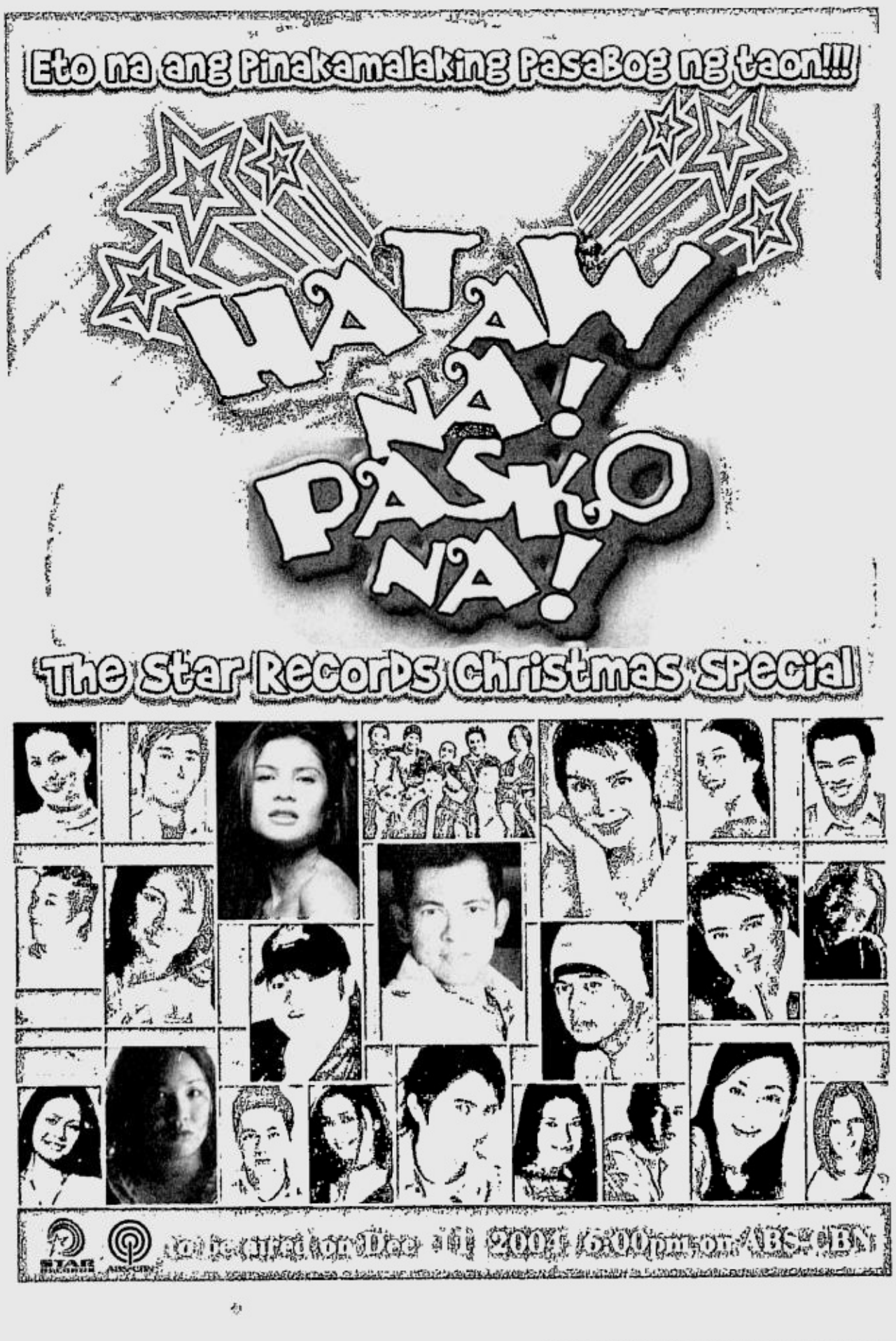
"He was under my care. I never detained him. I don't understand why his mother would ever think that I was keeping her son from him."

Fuentes was referring to an incident when the boy's mother came to visit him but was not allowed to enter the subdivision.

"The guards didn't know her," Fuentes argued. "All she had to do was to tell us she was coming over.

"I was just going to forget everything and sign an affidavit of desistance. But she had to do this to me," she added.





'Eat Bulaga!' special sabotaged?

CABLE TV subscribers from Las Piñas, Parañaque, San Pedro Laguna, Quezon City and some other areas in Manila were so frustrated because they missed the airing of the "Eat Bulaga" silver anniversary special last Nov. 27.

Right in time for the spectacular opening number, GMA's channel signal on Sky Cable and Home Cable in the above went from bad to gone. GMA Network's News and Public Affairs department, dzBB AM and the company's telephone operator received many calls from cable subscribers in the affected areas who doubted the timing of the distortion and disappearance of GMA's signal on Sky Cable.

GMA news interviewed some people from Sky Cable in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, who cited technical problems in their fiber optics as the cause of the signal disruption. In Las Piñas, a brownout at Sky Cable's substation was the apparent cause.

The overnight TV rating of "Eat Bulaga" reached 37 points versus the competitor's 11 points but the "Bulaga" rating could have been higher had the simultaneous signal distortion incidents not occurred.

Producers of "Eat Bulaga" promised to replay the opening of the special this month.

Was there sabotage, or was it mere coincidence?

Reader writes

I'M GIVING way to this eyewitness account of a brawl involving South Border.

"Hey, Dolly Anne.

"I eat the INQUIRER for breakfast and your column interests me no end. I'm writing about an incident involving South Border that I witnessed last night at the MTV AIDS Summit Concert at the Fort and left a bad taste in my mouth. Considering the gravity of the incident, I felt it was my duty to expose it to the public and deflate the heads of these egomaniacs.

"My friend and I were at the artists' entrance of the venue at around 8:30 p.m. when our attention was caught by three burly security persons pushing two teenage guys to a shady spot that was a few yards away from us. They ganged up on them behind a portalet and we heard them hurling invectives at the two poor guys. We assumed that the teenagers had caused trouble at the concert or slighted some performers at the event.

"Then we saw members of South Border (Duncan, Vince and this other guy) appear, with grim look on their faces and closed fists as if ready to pounce on anybody. It was easy to figure out that they were the artists offended by the two kids. We heard one guard said, *'Paghubarin 'yang mga yan! Sino pang mga kasama ninyo, ha?'* and they pulled this kid in a red shirt who really looked scared. The guards made the two kids squat behind the portalet and punched them in the back. Then they asked the band members to punch the kids some more. Vince and this other burly guy did.

"The kid in the red shirt was writhing in pain while rolling on the ground, clutching his sides. Still not satisfied, the guards made him stand up and told him to squat (*'Wag ninyong paalisin yan! Paiskwatin ninyo nang dalawang oras!'*). The band members immediately left after punching the two kids.

"I just can't believe that members of South Border would physically assault some defenseless 'average' kids. If those kids might have slighted them, they should've understood it by now that they are celebrities and they would have their share of haters.

"And those security guards! I don't have enough foul words for them! Those kids were there to have a good time. Instead those guards made punching bags out of them. And to think that event was supposed to have been held for a good cause!

"Poolpizzer."

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

'Bitag'

IN ITS more than two years of airing, "Bitag" has entrapped syndicates and other bad elements, with producer/director/host Ben Tulfo, personally supervising and executing all the operations. A lot of the successful operations of "Bitag" are picked up by other prime time news programs in leading networks.

One of the missions of Ben Tulfo was the fall of the No. 2 man in human trafficking in the country, with the help of the CIDG-Anti Organized Crime and Businessman's Concern Division (AOCBCD).

"Bitag" now airs every Saturday, 9-10 p.m., on IBC 13.

"It's not a job for me but a way of life," says Ben "Bitag." "I am and I will always be a Ronin, or a masterless warrior. I am not at the mercy of the networks unlike other hosts."

Obagi in town

CALLING all dermatologists and plastic surgeons! Dr. Zein Obagi, world-renowned der

SABOTAGE/ A3

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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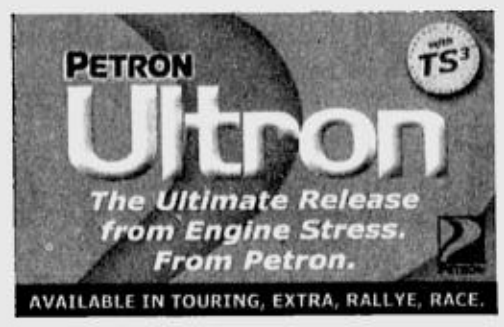


SURVEY OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS

RP losing appeal as investment site

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALAYSIA and Vietnam are leaving the country behind in the list of preferred investment sites for multinational companies in the region, the Wallace Business Forum reported yesterday.

The report also showed that MNC leaders overwhelmingly hoped for improved governance of the country in terms of clearer policies, strong enforcement of laws, steady rules that are not changed midstream, and respect for business contracts.

WBF chief Peter Wallace said in a press briefing that the findings were part of the results of the 2004 corporate performance survey that covered WBF's Philippine Corporate Update Program.

Wallace explained that the survey was conducted last September and that 49 of the 140 companies under the PCUP were polled.

The respondents were spread out over varied industries with consumer and industrial manufacturing, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, utilities and power, business services, and trading among them.

The survey found that the Philippines ranked seventh after China, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and South Korea as the preferred investment site in Asia.

The country's ranking fluctuated from sixth in the 2003 survey and eighth in 2002.

Vietnam placed eighth in 2003 and seventh in 2003 while Malaysia's ranking moved from seventh in 2003 and third in 2002.

Wallace said PCUP members' perception of business conditions in the country was almost unchanged from when the survey was conducted in 2003.

"Majority or 53 percent said business conditions were the same as the previous year while 28 percent said it was worse," he said. "Only 15 percent said it was somewhat better and nobody said it was much better."

"Clearly, business sentiment has yet to recover and is still well below its peak immediately prior to the Asian financial crisis of 1998," Wallace said.

The respondents identified the following criteria as the country's top investment weaknesses: bureaucratic red tape, economic instability, changing policies, government attitude, transport infrastructure, currency volatility and political instability.

The top three weaknesses were mostly unchanged in the past five years except political instability, which fell to seventh from second in 2003.

At the same time, the corporate executives listed the following as the country's top investment strengths: worker education level, their proficiency in the English language, quality and quantity of middle management and technical people, comfortable local lifestyle, availability of needed skilled or semi-skilled workers, attitude to foreigners by business associates, ability to accept Western business practices, labor reliability, attitude to foreigners by the public, and quality of business partners.

The report added that overall, the resulting index of investment attractiveness showed the business sentiment seemed to be more neutral than positive.

Respondents also put forward the following recommendations to the government:

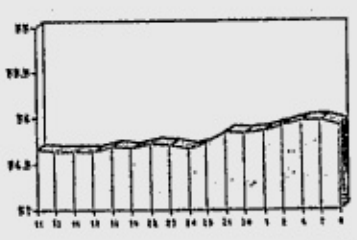
- reduce graft and corruption by means of a few "high profile" imprisonment, especially among erring police and military officers;
- rationalize the tax and incentives system for investment to make it competitive with those of other Asian countries;
- improve investment in infrastructure especially in the power sector considering a looming shortage, and at the same time provide guarantees of non-impairment of contracts with private firms;
- liberalize the business environment, stop being protectionist and privatize government businesses;
- minimize judicial intervention in legitimate business operations, and
- address the public sector deficit and debt issues promptly and more decisively.

Finally, Wallace said the country's leadership was a significant factor in the country's attractiveness to investors. "It is the leader that matters."

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.075 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 8, 2004

¥ 103.73 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 8, 2004

GOLD: $ 445.00-445.5
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 8, 2004

STOCK MARKET

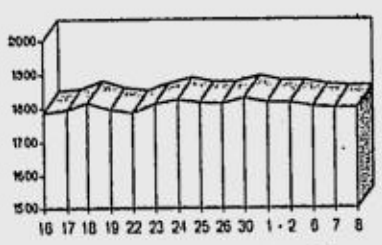
Stocks end higher

STOCKS ended a three-day losing streak and moved higher yesterday on relief that Fitch Ratings kept its ratings on the country's sovereign debt and only cut its outlook.

But analysts said gains were tempered by worries over possible credit downgrades by other agencies such

STOCKS/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Gov't debt rises to ₱3.63T

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government's outstanding debt rose to P3.63 trillion in August due to higher foreign and domestic borrowings coupled with the depreciation of the peso.

The P3.63-trillion obligation of the national government as of August was 1.4 percent higher than the P3.58 trillion recorded the previous month.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that the debt figure for August consisted of P1.9 trillion worth of domestic borrowings and P1.73 trillion worth of foreign liabilities.

The amount of foreign debt in August rose by 2.2 percent from July. The DOF said in a statement that the increase in external borrowings was due to P20 billion worth of net availment, P10 billion worth of net depreciation of third currencies against the US dollar, and P6 billion in depreciation of the peso against the greenback.

The amount of domestic borrowing in August at P1.9 trillion was 0.7 percent higher than in July. The DOF said the increase was caused by the issuance of P1 billion worth of government securities and other "domestic adjustments" worth P13 billion.

The debt burden has been growing because of the budget deficits that the government incurred over the past several years.

The government is targeting to begin easing its debt burden only in 2009 or 2010 when it expects to have wiped out its budget deficit.

The government's gaping budget deficit

GOV'T/ B2

Ecozone exports jump 13.6%

TOTAL exports from the country's economic zones remained on an uptrend as receipts jumped 13.6 percent to $25.6 billion in the first 10 months from $22.5 billion a year ago.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported that the 10-month export revenues of $5.7 billion from the four public ecozones hardly expanded from last year's.

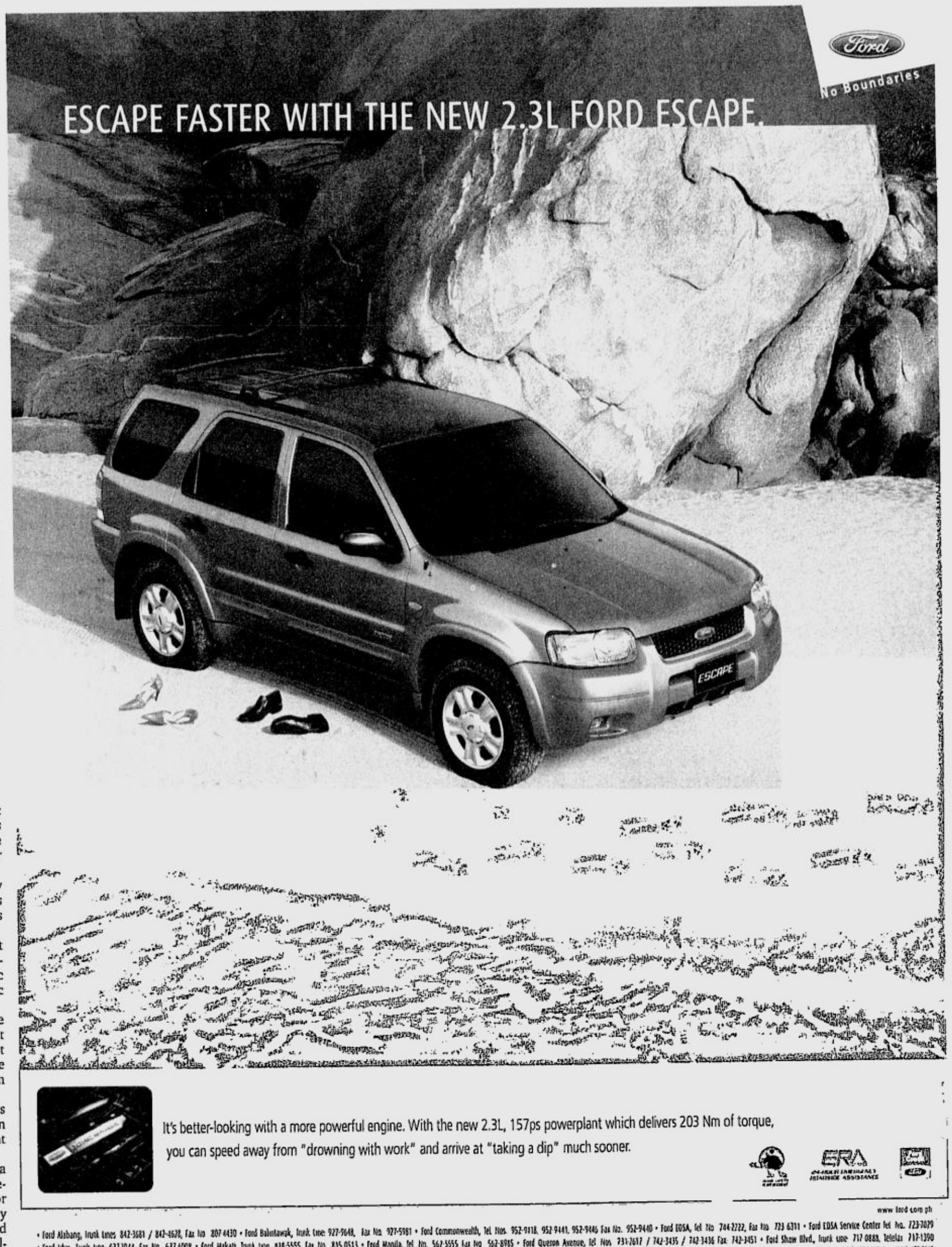
Baguio City Economic Zone shipped out $2.43 billion worth of products; Cavite Economic Zone, $1.72 billion; Mactan Economic Zone, $1.34 billion, and Bataan Economic Zone, $243 million.

Of the public ecozones, Bataan posted the biggest increase in exports at 9.2 percent from $222.5 million in the first 10 months last year. Baguio reported a 5-percent decrease from $2.55 billion in the same period in 2003.

The private or special economic zones (SEZs) shipped out a total of $19.7 billion worth of products, an increase of 18.2 percent from $16.6 billion last year.

The top five SEZ exporters were Laguna Technopark Inc. with $6.5 billion; Gateway Business Park, $3.6 billion; Amkor Technology SEZ, $1.9 billion; Carmelray Industrial Park I, $865.2 million, and Carmelray Industrial Park II, $649.7 million.

ECOZONE/ B2



Property developers see minimal impact of log ban

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MAJOR PROPERTY firms said they did not see a substantial impact on real estate operations of a Malacañang order suspending logging activities following killer floods and landslides.

A high-ranking official at Ayala Land Inc. said there were alternatives for property firms such as "engineered wood" or synthetic wood used for floors or kitchen cabinets, which are imported mostly from China.

This may increase costs since the materials are imported, but local property executives said this had been done in the past.

"We don't anticipate any major effect. It is a selective log ban, which won't make it as easy to source lumber as before," the ALI official said.

The official also said that all of ALI's projects would continue. "Nothing will stop because of the log ban."

During the nine-month period, ALI spent P5.55 billion or 58 percent of the P9.52-billion budget for projects for itself and its subsidiaries for the year. The bulk was used for residential building projects such as Serendra, One Legazpi Park, The Columns and One Aeropolis. The rest was used for the development of shopping centers, primarily Market! Market!, build-to-suit office buildings, residential subdivision projects and equity investments.

Residential developer Belle Corp. also said there were other alternatives available in the market aside from lumber that may have a minimal effect on costs for the company, company vice chair Willy Ocier said.

The bulk of the sales revenues during the first nine months for Belle was from Phase 1 of its farm lots subdivision project, Plantation Hills in Batangas, which was launched last year. Roughly 80 percent of the project has been completed. Total operating expenses climbed 33 percent to P70.3 million from P52.9 million in the nine-month period due to the heightened development activities in Plantation Hills, preparations for three additional phases for this project and preparations for Saratoga Hills, a new house-and-lot subdivision project located close to Plantation Hills. Saratoga was planned for launch within this year.

Gov't debt . . .

From page B1

and burgeoning debt are the main factors the country is confronted with a fiscal problem and threats of a credit-rating downgrade.

Earlier, London-based ratings firm Fitch Ratings downgraded its outlook on the Philippines from stable to negative, although it retained the country's credit rating at BB.

Ratings firm Moody's Investors Service, for its part, is assessing whether to push through with its earlier warning of downgrading the country's credit rating. Representatives of Moody's were in the country last week to evaluate the country's fiscal situation.

The Arroyo administration is pushing for several revenue-raising measures, such as higher taxes and reduced fiscal incentives, to plug the budget gap and meet its medium-term goal of a zero budget deficit.

Stocks end higher

From page B1

as Moody's, which is expected to release its own report soon.

"Investors will be awaiting the verdict of Moody's Investors Service, which on Monday finished its country review. It is widely expected to issue a ratings downgrade," said ATR Kim Eng Securities research head Luz Lorenzo.

"Less than this, as in the case of Fitch, and we will hear a big sigh of relief from the investment community." *Reuters*

Ecozone

From page B1

Gateway Business Park posted the biggest increase at 147 percent from $1.46 billion in the first 10 months of 2003 while top SEZ exporter Laguna Technopark reported a growth of 5 percent.

Amkor and Carmelray I posted increases of 86 percent and 33 percent, respectively, but Carmelray II reported a decrease in exports by 71 percent.

Information technology parks and buildings earned a total of $157.8 million in receipts, an increase of 58.7 percent from $99.4 million.

The top five IT buildings and parks as of end-October were: RCBC Place Information, earning $46.4 million; Eastwood City Cyber Park, $44.3 million; Pacific Information Technology, $19.6 million; PBCom Tower, $14.5 million, and E-Square Information Technology, $8.7 million.

Total employment in the ecozones rose 11.8 percent, with some 604,000 workers hired directly and about 403,000 employed indirectly.

The top three employers were the Cavite ecozone with about 74,000; Laguna Technopark, 63,000, and Mactan ecozone, 43,000. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 8, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3	3	3	3	54,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	23.75	24.75	23.75	24.75	2,097,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	52	51	52	1,987,400
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	3,810
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	49	49	89,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	100,000
International Exch. Bank	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	957,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28.5	27.5	28	566,900
Philippine National Bank	23	23	23	23	7,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	29	29	29	29	134,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23.75	23	23.75	73,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2450	2450	2450	2450	500
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	112	112	112	112	50
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1820	1825	1820	1825	210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.75	37,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.82	4,438,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	970	975	960	965	120,820
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	33,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	70,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.48	2.55	2,718,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	230,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1275	1275	1270	1275	176,090
Ivantage Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.72	0.75	3,870,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	41,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	81,100
Manila Electric Co. B	26.5	27.5	26	27	1,386,100
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	7,539,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	60,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	14,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	574,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	90,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	90,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	520,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.06	2.06	2	2	5,600,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	11,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	29	27	28.5	93,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	30,000
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	180,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57	56.5	57	27,500
San Miguel Corp. B	75	75	75	75	18,000
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	9,500
Universal Robina Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	32,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	610,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.6	5,638,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	16,000
APC Group Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	60,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16	16	15.75	15.75	44,400
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.73	0.7	0.73	15,250,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	330,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.225	0.23	1,700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.95	3.8	3.95	7,673,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	741,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	32	32.5	31.5	32.5	1,285,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	310,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	20,000
Ionics Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	73,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	1,625,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	117,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.78	1.68	1.76	2,906,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,438,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	18,580,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	2,110,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	60,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	17,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	1,120,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.5	171,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.82	0.93	0.82	0.93	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.65	0.67	0.64	0.66	28,750,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.95	410,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	1,000,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	510,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	170,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	204,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8	32,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	2,441,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,190,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,030,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,600,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,250,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	3,150,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	1,690,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	1,140,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	61,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	958,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5	8,985,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	138,100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	196,000
Benguet Corp. A	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	30,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.2	3.5	2.8	3.1	129,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.28	14,120,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.4	44,890,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	208,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	151,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.005	81,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	2,570,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	2,320,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.195	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	12,200,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	52,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	63,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.21	940,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.225	0.2	0.22	1,240,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	97,000
Simophil Corp.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	7,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	30,000

DISCLOSURES

AYALA Land Inc. declared cash dividends of P0.03 per share to all outstanding shares as of record date Dec. 28, payable on Jan. 25, 2005.

* * *

AYALA Land will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 6, 2005 at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Ayala Center, Makati City.

* * *

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. said it has not received official notice from the Securities and Exchange Commission about its reported suspension and the revocation of the registration of its unit Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corp.

* * *

ATR KIM Eng Financial Corp. said an investment group led by its subsidiary ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. committed to participate in a $1.5 million private equity fund, Rimasia Capital Partners. L.P. ATRKE Capital will directly contribute $500,000. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

December 8, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.744657	1.000000	56.0560
Japan	Yen	0.007238	0.0097200	0.5449
United Kingdom	Pound	1.449252	1.946200	109.0962
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095836	0.128697	7.2142
Switzerland	Franc	0.653036	0.876962	49.1590
Canada	Dollar	0.616540	0.827952	46.4117
Singapore	Dollar	0.455225	0.611322	34.2683
Australia	Dollar	0.577164	0.775074	43.4475
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.975323	2.652661	148.6976
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198177	0.266667	14.9483
Brunei	Dollar	0.453370	0.610054	34.1638
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019021	0.025543	1.4318
UAE	Dirham	0.202777	0.272309	15.2646
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.342900	75.2776
Argentina	Peso	0.249466	0.335008	18.7792
Brazil	Real	0.271971	0.365230	20.4733
Denmark	Kroner	0.134643	0.180812	10.1356
India	Rupee	0.017079	0.022936	1.2857
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.195989	0.263193	14.7535
Mexico	New Peso	0.066474	0.089268	5.0040
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536072	0.719891	40.3542
South Africa	Rand	0.129675	0.174140	9.7616
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000961	0.0539
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.023212	0.031172	1.7474

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3 bidders vie for Cirio's 40% stake in Del Monte

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ITALIAN food company Cirio Finanziara S.p.A is in advanced talks with three bidders interested in its 40-percent stake in Singapore-listed manufacturing firm Del Monte Pacific Ltd., which owns the brand rights over Del Monte products in the Philippines and in the Indian subcontinent.

DMPL said in a disclosure to the Stock Exchange of Singapore that Cirio will select a winning bidder if the terms are acceptable, after which it will proceed with the sale of its 39.99 percent stake in the company.

The final bidders were not identified.

DMPL, however, said that MCI Inc., the holding company of the Lorenzo family, has a right to match any final offer that Cirio will accept.

The Lorenzo family holds a 22-percent stake in DMPL.

"However, shareholders should be aware that there is no assurance that a definitive agreement will be signed with any party and there is no certainty that a general offer for DMPL will take place," DMPL said in its statement.

Cirio earlier defaulted on more than 1 billion euros, approximately $1.33 billion in 2002 and is now under liquidation.

Administrators have been selling its assets to raise cash to partly repay debt, and the 40 percent stake in DMPL was estimated to be worth about $180 million.

Del Monte recently announced an 18-percent increase in its third-quarter turnover this year to $51 million from a year ago, while net profit rose by 34 percent to $4.5 million.

Thrift banks' bad loans ratio down to 11.67%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NON-PERFORMING loans of Philippine thrift banks declined to 11.67 percent of their total portfolio as of end-July, from 12.07 percent in the previous month, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The improvement was attributed to the 3-percent decline in their actual NPLs combined with the 0.3-percent expansion of their total loan portfolio during the period.

The end-July NPL ratio of thrift banks was also 1.33 percentage points lower than the 13 percent ratio a year ago.

Exclusive of inter-bank loans, these banks' NPL ratio stood at 12.04 percent, or 0.45 percentage point lower than the 12.49 percent ratio a month ago.

The ratio of real and other properties owned and acquired to gross assets rose by 0.49 percentage points to 11.53 percent from 11.04 percent a month ago. It was also 1.81 percentage points higher than the 9.72 percent ratio a year ago.

Of the sector's total loan portfolio, 2.56 percent represented restructured loans.

In the meantime, the non-performing assets of the banking industry reached 16.88 percent of total assets, up from 16.64 percent a month ago and 16.31 percent a year ago.

The BSP said this was due primarily to the industry's continuing efforts to foreclose mortgaged assets. It is also partly due to "the contained" expansion of the banks' gross assets during the month, the BSP added.

The industry's non-performing assets rose by 1.9 percent to P50 billion, while gross assets grew at a slower pace.

The NPLs covered by loss provisions—or the NPL coverage ratio—improved to 38.54 percent from 38.24 percent a month ago and 37.7 percent a year ago.

LBP plans to bid out ₱10B in idle assets

STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines plans to bid out P10 billion worth of idle assets, possibly under another special purpose vehicle (SPV) deal.

This is to follow the recent disposal of P13.5 billion worth of bad loans under the SPV network.

In a press briefing yesterday, Landbank president Gary Teves said the bank would continue pursuing efforts to get rid of bad assets, particularly real and other properties owned and acquired (ropoas).

"We'll look for buyers for the remaining NPLs (non-performing loans) and ropoas," Teves said.

He said the bank's asset recovery group would be asked to present in the next board meeting a proposal to clean up the remaining P16 billion in ropoas. He said the bank would aim to unload at least P10 billion soon.

TEVES

After recently forging an agreement to sell P13.5 billion worth of bad loans to Deutsche Bank-Cargill Financial Services International Inc. and JP Morgan, Landbank's NPL ratio declined to only 8 percent from 14 percent of its total portfolio.

During the last bidding, however, Landbank was unable to sell the ropoa portion of the assets offered to foreign investors.

The bank tapped mostly foreign bidders during the first round of the asset sale, Teves said.

He said the bank would offer the remaining assets to local investors. He said the local market might be more generous in terms of pricing.

"They are more familiar with the domestic environment and there are no ownership restrictions," Teves said.

One strategy eyed by the bank to make its property auctions more attractive to local investors is to divide the assets into smaller lots, or with book value of as low as P250 million.

The successful assets disposal by local banks under the SPV framework involved mostly NPLs, rather than ropoas.

The SPV Law of 2002 intends to help banks get rid of their NPAs by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees imposed on the sale or transfer of assets. The law waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value added tax) and likewise reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

The tax relief and other benefits under the SPV Law are available only up to April 8 next year.

Teves also announced that Landbank chalked up a net profit of P1.9 billion from January to October, representing 86 percent of its 2004 target of P2.2 billion.

"We're looking at P2.5 billion in net profit for next year," Teves said.

Doris C. Dumlao

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Smart bucks proposed frequency fee formula

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. may have to shell out more than P155 million to pay the National Telecommunications Commission for the use of radio frequencies.

This, according to a Smart official, is the additional cost the telco will have to pay if the NTC's plan to base the spectrum users fee on the number of subscribers, instead of the number of base stations, would push through.

The company yesterday said this plan of the NTC was unreasonable and had no legal basis.

Rogelio Quevedo, head of Smart's legal and carrier business, said the regulator's plan would only encourage the hoarding of frequency spectrum band.

The cash rich subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said it had 17.5 million subscribers as of end-September.

Globe Telecom Inc., for its part, said it would study first the NTC formula before making any comment. The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom counted 11.7 million subscribers as of end-September. Third player Sun Cellular said it broke the 1 million mark in November.

A draft NTC circular provides for the imposition of a spectrum fee of P1 million for every 100,000 additional subscribers in excess of two million. For mobile phone operators with two million or below customers, the old rate will remain.

Quevedo said the NTC, at present, based the computation of spectrum fee on the amount of spectrum used, the type of service being offered and the economic classification of the areas covered by the radio stations.

"The proposed revisions will penalize carriers that make use of their assigned spectrums more efficiently than the others," the Smart lawyer said.

NTC chair Ronald Solis said the NTC plan would allow the agency to raise more funds for the government, as well as ensure a more accurate reporting of subscriber base of the telcos.

Quevedo, however, stressed that it was not the NTC's mandate to raise revenue.

He said the effective and efficient use of the spectrum should be the basis for the award of the spectrum, not the funds that would be raised.

DOE, Malampaya group sign new pricing deal

By Abigail L. Ho

PUBLIC utility vehicles that will use natural gas can buy their fuel requirements at almost half the price of diesel as the Department of Energy signs today a new pricing agreement with the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project consortium members.

While the new memorandum of agreement would peg Malampaya-sourced natural gas at a price higher than that provided in an earlier agreement, Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said the price of the compressed natural gas (CNG) that would be sold to the public transport sector would still be around half that of diesel.

"The new price would be higher as certain aspects of setting up mother-daughter (CNG refilling) stations were missed out during the earlier negotiations," he said.

Under the old agreement, the Malampaya consortium agreed to sell CNG to be bought from the Malampaya gas field at P8.46 a liter for the first 18 months; P9.01 a liter for the next 18 months; P9.56 a liter for the succeeding two years, and P10.11 a liter for the remaining two years.

These prices, averaging at P9.36 a liter in seven years, were put in place to encourage transport groups to participate in the government's seven-year Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT).

Instead of using different prices spread over seven years, Abaya said the new agreement would use a single price for all seven years of the NGVPPT's implementation.

Apart from a change in the CNG pricing, the new agreement will remove the exclusivity provision that Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., a sister of Malampaya consortium member Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex), is supposed to enjoy in the establishment of "daughter" refilling stations in key points in the country.

Abaya said striking out this exclusivity provision would promote competition in the CNG industry and allow the entry of new investments into the country.

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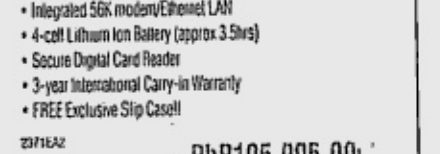

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China's biggest computer maker acquires IBM's PC business

BEIJING—Chinese computer maker Lenovo Group said Wednesday it will take over IBM Corp.'s personal computer business, creating the world's third-largest PC maker in a $1.75-billion deal that announces China's ambitions to become a key player in the global industry.

The deal—one of the biggest foreign acquisitions ever by a Chinese company—is expected to quadruple sales of Lenovo, already Asia's biggest computer maker, the companies said.

At the same time, it shifts International Business Machines Corp. to a peripheral role in a technology it pioneered.

Lenovo, formerly known as Legend, joins a wave of Chinese firms with aggressive plans to expand abroad.

"This acquisition will allow Chinese industry to make significant inroads on its path to globalization," Lenovo chair Liu Chuanzhi said at a news conference. "It has changed the structure of the global PC manufacturing business."

Lenovo will take over IBM's desktop PC business, including research, development and manufacturing for $1.25 billion (946 million euro) in cash and shares, while IBM retains an 18.9-percent stake, Liu said.

Lenovo also agreed to take on liabilities that raise the total value of the deal for IBM to $1.75 billion (1.32 billion euro).

The Chinese company will be allowed to use IBM's brand name under a licensing agreement, Liu said.

The companies appear to have structured the deal to ensure that IBM retains a say in the PC business, despite its small stake.

Lenovo Group's worldwide PC business will move its headquarters to New York.

Lenovo was founded in 1984 by academics at the government-backed Chinese Academy of Sciences and first worked out of a small cottage.

First set up to distribute equipment made by IBM and other companies, by 1990 it was selling PCs under its own brand name.

IBM now focuses on consulting and software, outsourcing much of its manufacturing.

The sale to Lenovo is expected to cut production costs and breathe new life into the PC business, which now accounts for a small portion of IBM's total sales and profits.

"The IBM brand will gain great recognition in China, the world's fastest growing economy and the world's fastest growing market for PCs," said John Joyce, IBM senior vice president and group executive of IBM Global Services.

Beijing-based Lenovo has 27 percent of China's computer market. Its shares are traded in Hong Kong.

The deal follows numerous troubled mergers of hardware makers.

AT&T Corp. lost billions after its 1991 union with NCR Corp. before cutting the company loose in 1996.

And Compaq Computer Corp.'s 1998 takeover of Digital Equipment Corp. promised benefits that never materialized.

Lenovo will need to branch out in services and other areas as profit margins for manufacturing shrink, said Duncan Clark, managing director of the consulting firm BDA China Ltd.

"It's not going to be easy, but they're certainly not shying away from any of these challenges," Clark said.

He suggested Lenovo call the new venture "Big Red"—a play on IBM's Big Blue nickname and China's red national flag.

Both IBM and Lenovo have seen profit margins suffer amid aggressive competition.

IBM had 5 percent of the worldwide PC market in 2004, selling 6.8 million units, according to Gartner Inc., a US technology consulting firm.

That compares with 16.4 percent for Dell Inc. and 13.9 percent for Hewlett-Packard Inc., which makes the HP and Compaq brands. Lenovo ranks fifth in sales worldwide.

Chinese firms' ambitions will only grow, Clark said.

"It's this combination of this large market, manufacturing base, engineering talent," plus government encouragement to Chinese companies to make their mark abroad, he said.

Lenovo's announcement Wednesday followed reports that a deal was imminent. As speculation mounted Tuesday, IBM's stock fell $1.57 per share to $96.10 in trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Shares rose 10 cents in after-hours trading, to $96.20. *AP*

Japan avoids recession; grows by 0.1% in Q3

TOKYO—Japan just missed falling into recession after revised third quarter figures Wednesday showed much lower-than-expected growth of 0.1 percent as the government insisted the economy faces only a temporary slowdown.

The Cabinet Office said gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 0.1 percent in the three months to September gave an annualized gain of 0.2 percent under a new methodology, compared with 0.1 percent and 0.3 percent in preliminary data.

Analysts had been expecting the revised figures to show a gain of 0.3-0.4 percent on the quarter and 1.2-1.8 percent annualized, especially in view of strong corporate capital spending figures announced last week.

The Cabinet Office also said that under the new system of compiling the data, the economy had actually contracted 0.1 percent in the April-June quarter after expanding 1.7 percent in the January-March quarter.

A recession is broadly defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth, meaning Japan's economy just scraped by and came very close to a halt in the third quarter.

A key factor in the poor performance was private consumption, which was much weaker-than-expected, increasing only 0.2 percent in the third quarter, down from the 0.9-percent rise reported in the original estimate.

Even though an improved labor market has helped cheer consumer sentiment, it has not made a major change in average disposable income, Economy and Fiscal Minister Heizo Takenaka told reporters.

Despite the figures, the market too appeared to look on the more positive side, coming off early lows. The Tokyo Stock Exchange's benchmark Nikkei-225 index finished 67.74 points or 0.62 percent higher at 10,941.37.

Investors may have been reacting to one undoubtedly bright point—corporate spending on plant and equipment was revised sharply to 1.1 percent growth against an initial estimate of a 0.2 percent fall.

At the same time, export growth was revised up to 0.6 percent from the initial 0.4 percent, providing some relief that the economy's key driver remains on course even as the dollar tumbles, threatening overseas revenues.

There have been fears that a soft patch in the US economy, Japan's No. 1 export market, and credit-tightening aimed at cooling off the red-hot Chinese economy could stifle hit Japanese exports.

Masaaki Kanno, chief economist for Japan at JP Morgan Securities Asia, said nonetheless that the downside risks for Japan remained "quite big" with Wednesday's data. *AFP*

LOWER OUTPUT

Opec hawks want prices high

VIENNA, Austria—Raise prices. Ease production. For weeks ahead of this week's Opec meeting, hawks in the organization have been talking tough about the need to keep oil revenues high—and lowering output.

With the organization pumping about one million barrels a day above its official production ceiling—and prices well below the highs of a few months ago—sentiment for scaling back on production is shared even by some countries that normally take a more restrained stance.

Qatar, Kuwait and Libya appear to have abandoned traditional ally Saudi Arabia, joining Iran and Venezuela in urging compliance with Opec's official quota of 27 million barrels a day.

"We will determine if the over production of oil in the market makes it necessary to call for (members) to go back to the quotas previously established," Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez told a press briefing in Caracas on Tuesday.

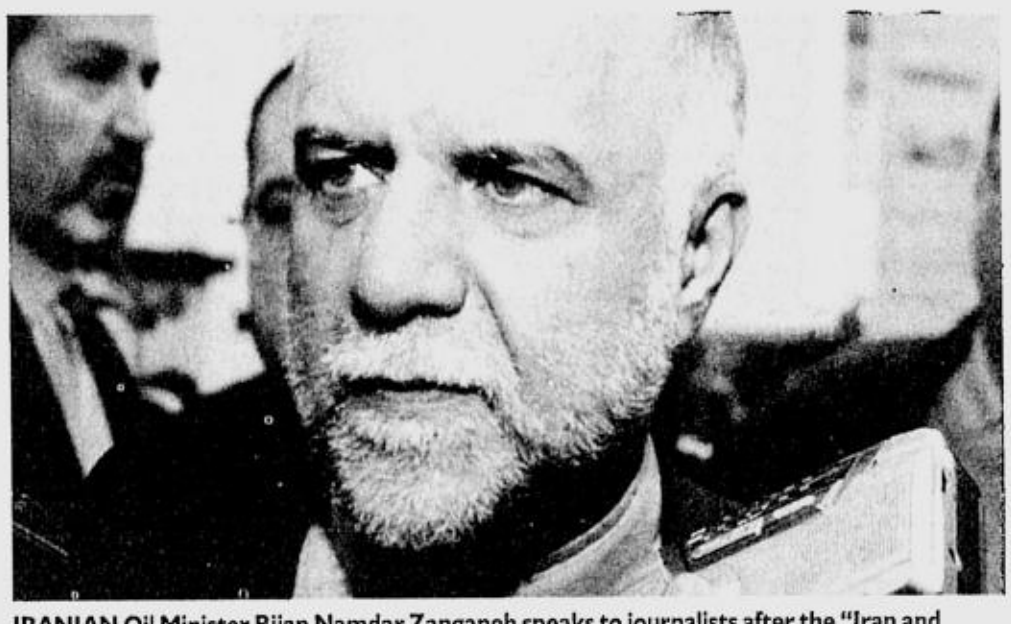
"Venezuela would probably support" cutting overproduction before asking for a quota reduction, Ramirez said, adding that his country will support Opec members' consensus decision.

There are also some suggestions for raising Opec's price band for crude.

Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Indonesia's oil minister and Opec's secretary general, said this week that such a move would be justified because of "the inflation that occurred since 2001 and the depreciation of the dollar" against other major currencies.

The group's price band is now between $22 and $28 a barrel. Officials from both Iran and Venezuela—Opec's No. 2 and No. 3 producers—have said recently they would like to see the low end at about $30 a barrel.

The United Arab Emirates' new energy minister, Mohammed bin Dhaen al-Hamili, on Tuesday expressed support for raising Opec's price band for crude to between $30 and $38 a barrel to take into account inflation and the weakening of the dollar.



IRANIAN Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh speaks to journalists after the "Iran and Middle East Oil and Gas Forum Conference" in Tehran. Zanganeh said that Opec is likely to stick with its current production quota and price band when it meets in Cairo on Dec. 10. AFP

But he added that Opec was not thinking of replacing the dollar with another currency as the denominator for oil sales.

Petroleum prices have been high due to strong global demand, a tight supply cushion and fears of output disruptions in Iraq, Nigeria and Russia. In September, a strong hurricane knocked out significant oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, though the region's output is now recovering.

Market prices remain nearly double the bottom end of the present scale. Still, crude prices are hovering around their lowest level in three months, reflecting rebuilt stocks, slowing economies, high production by both Opec and non-Opec countries, a relatively mild Northern Hemisphere winter and the end of speculative futures buying that led oil to settle at $55.17 twice in October.

The Saudis—who make up nearly a third of total Opec production—have not spoken publicly about their preferences.

Traditionally, they have been a moderating influence at ministerial meetings in recognition that too much of a strain on the world's economies will backfire by reducing demand.

Publicly, Opec officials deny there is a rift. *AP*

Colgate-Palmolive to cut 4,400 jobs, restructure

NEW YORK—Colgate-Palmolive Co., which makes consumer products including Ajax detergent and Irish Spring soap, plans to cut its worldwide workforce by about 12 percent, or about 4,400 jobs, and close one-third of its factories as part of a four-year plan aimed at boosting its sales and profits.

The company said Tuesday it would reduce its global workforce from its current level of 37,000 and close a third of its 78 factories worldwide during the course of the four-year restructuring effort. The savings would be invested in sales and marketing initiatives.

During a conference call with investors on Tuesday, chair and CEO Reuben Mark said that the job cuts would come mostly from manufacturing, and said that factories—both general plants and special purpose plants—are being closed worldwide.

The news sent Colgate's stock up $3.64 to $49.93 in late trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

The moves come as the consumer products industry has been grappling with higher costs in raw materials, gas and packaging, all of which have put more pressure on companies' bottom lines.

Colgate-Palmolive is also faced with increasing competition from rivals like Procter & Gamble Co., which have stepped up the number of new products and ramped up advertising spending. *AP*

US productivity growth slows; store sales dip

WASHINGTON—The US economic outlook dimmed on Tuesday after reports said business productivity grew more slowly in the third quarter than first estimated, labor costs rose and other indicators signaled softening activity.

Chain store sales fell in the crucial shopping period after Thanksgiving, planned job cuts climbed during November and a survey of consumer confidence waned in possible pointers that the economy tempered its pace in the final months of the year.

The Labor Department said nonfarm business productivity, or worker output per hour, grew at a 1.8 percent annual rate in the July to September period—the slowest clip since the fourth quarter of 2002. It also nudged up growth in unit labor costs to a 1.8-percent pace in a potential boost to inflation.

Wall Street had expected an upward revision to productivity growth to a 2 percent rate from an originally reported third-quarter pace of 1.9 percent.

Productivity in the second quarter grew at a rate of 3.9 percent.

Stocks lost ground but their fall was triggered by factors such as tumbling energy shares rather than the economic data.

Higher unit labor costs also backed views the Federal Reserve will stick with a measured pace of rate increases and lift its benchmark funds rate a quarter percentage point to 2.25 percent at its next meeting on Dec. 14.

The slowdown in productivity was traced to a rise in hours worked, which grew at a rate of 2.4 percent in the third quarter, the fastest pace since third quarter of 1999 as companies ran operations for longer to maintain output. This had been initially reported as a 2.1-percent growth rate.

Productivity growth was also substantially lower compared with a year ago when it rose by 9 percent.

But this is not necessarily bad news since it also reflects cyclical changes in company hiring and a welcome boost to job creation.

Officials had predicted productivity would moderate as companies exhaust ways of boosting output by making existing workers more efficient and instead lifted hiring. During the third quarter over 400,000 new US jobs were created.

However, the November employment report said a much weaker than expected 112,000 jobs were created and the impression of a troubled labor market was backed by a report from employment consultant Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

It found that US businesses announced 104,530 planned job cuts in November, compared with 101,840 in October and warned this could crimp consumer spending at a critical time for the economy.

A survey of consumer confidence told a similar story, with Investor's Business Daily and TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence reporting that their economic optimism index fell modestly to 54.5 in December after dropping to 55.1 in November. A reading above 50 indicates optimism.

Indeed, US retailers continued to report disappointing sales in the key week after the Thanksgiving Day holiday, which kicks off the Christmas shopping season. *Reuters*

Nikkei up, other stocks down

SINGAPORE—A recovering dollar lifted Tokyo's main stock index on Wednesday as exporters gained, but Asian mining, steel and oil shares slipped on weaker metal prices and a fall in the cost of crude to a three-month low.

Weak Japanese economic growth data capped stock market gains and lifted Japanese government bonds. European shares were set to open lower after US stocks were dragged lower by a drop in oil company issues.

Gold dropped sharply as the dollar's recovery sent the euro back below $1.34.

The dollar climbed to 103.58 yen from 102.97 yen in late New York trade and a five-year low of 101.83 yen hit last week.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average closed up 0.62 percent at 10,941.37, lifted by exporters such as Honda and Canon

Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.48 percent by midday to 14,166.85, and an MSCI index of non-Japan shares fell 1.23 percent to a two-week low of 252.14.

China oil firm CNOOC fell 2.4 percent and Japan's AOC dropped 4.9 percent after crude prices hit a new three-month low in early Asian trade as mild winter weather in the United States and expectations of a rise in heating fuel stocks kept downward pressure on the market.

BHP Billiton, the world's biggest diversified miner, fell one percent in Australia as base metals prices eased, and Nippon Steel fell 0.4 percent in Tokyo after UBS downgraded the global steel sector on prospects for lower prices next year.

Weakness in BHP and fellow miner Rio Tinto helped send Australia's S&P ASX 200 down three-quarters of a percent.

Lenovo remained suspended in Hong Kong after the Chinese computer maker struck a landmark deal to buy IBM's PC manufacturing business for $1.25 billion in cash and Lenovo stock. Shares of Texas Instruments, the world's top maker of chips for mobile phones, fell 1.4 percent in after-hours US dealing after it reported a soft order trend for the fourth quarter.

South Korea's KOSPI rose 1.24, following the Tokyo market as a won decline lifted Samsung Electronics by 2 percent, and Singapore's Straits Times was up half a percent by midday.

World stocks as measured by the MSCI World Index fell 0.24 percent.

Gold was at $447.50 an ounce, down from $450.50 in New York.

Ten-year JGB futures rose 0.03 points to 139.10. *Reuters*

VISITORS admire a new model of a Honda car during a motor show in Singapore on Nov. 11. Car sales in Asia are expected to surge at a world-fastest 16 percent annually over the next 15 years as the region becomes critical for the auto industry to off-set sluggish growth in other key markets, a leading analyst said. AP

LAMOIYAN CORPORATION

Making the difference for the glory of God

A *David* in the midst of *Goliaths*

With its ongoing P100 million plant expansion and deeply religious team of dedicated people, Filipino maker of world-class quality products like Hapee toothpaste is poised to take on the MNCs in the global arena.

In the Bible, the story about young David fighting the fully armored Goliath with stones and slingshot never fails to inspire everyone.

Likewise, this present-day Filipino company found its own place under the sun and made its presence felt despite the fact that there are so many multinational companies already entrenched in the consumers' consciousness.

The Bible described Goliath as a robust, tall man who came into the battlefield completely armed and ready, while David's sole weapon (aside from stones and slingshot) was his full faith in Yahweh.

Like David, Lamoiyan Corporation had also came into business armed only with the sincere intention of survival. Later on, the company realized that this survival instinct gave them the opportunity to be of service to their countrymen – the Filipinos.

Buy Filipino. Boost our economy.
Presently, the company is treading on this context - *Buy Filipino*. And why not when it is the only Filipino company that emerged in the midst of the multinational toothpaste makers. Lamoiyan Corporation, maker of Hapee toothpaste, Dazz Dishwashing Aids, Fash Liquid Laundry Detergent, Tenderly Fabric Enhancer, and Lacteena Feminine Wash faces the challenge presented by the fast-growing technological society. Hand in hand with people who are adept in their field of specialization, Lamoiyan Corporation counts on their world-class and quality-based but less priced products to gain more consumers' confidence; this in turn will pave the way for their products' entrance to every Filipino home.

Buy Filipino is not just a contextual thought, but also a unifying force that binds our fellowmen in our desire to help boost our economy upwards. Patronizing our Philippine-made products not only manifest our love for our country, it also speaks of our appreciation to our fellowmen who strive hard to develop and bring to us what we mostly need in a very reduced price. Buy Filipino also intends to make us aware that our country's only hope to rise above our present economic downfall is to compel everyone of us to do our part in implementing some measures towards wise budgeting schemes. Lamoiyan Corporation could only agree in this line of thought, because aside from it being a Filipino company, it also had its share of struggle to survive in the economic market.

Humble beginnings as MNC supplier.
The company has its own story to tell. It started in 1980 as Aluminum Container, Inc., which manufactured and sold collapsible aluminum tubes for toothpaste then. The clients they supplied were the multinational companies like Colgate-Palmolive, Phil. (for Colgate) and Philippine Refining Company (for Close-Up).

The company had been put into disadvantage in the year 1985 when their clients switched to a new type of packaging, that of laminated plastic tubes which rendered the company's manufactured aluminum tube products useless to these giant companies. Confronted with this scenario, and realizing that the toothpaste industry accounted for 90 percent of the total production requirement, it seems that the only thing left is to close the company.

Maker of Hapee—the first Filipino toothpaste.
But then, the company owner, Cecilio K. Pedro, could not bear the thought of placing people, his own employees at that, in the unemployment list. Cecilio turned to the Almighty God, praying hard as he had never prayed before. And like the biblical Moses whom the Lord had chosen to guide his people out of Egypt, Cecilio also received that divine inspiration to lead his employees out of unemployment status. Instead of closing the company for good, Cecilio Pedro decided to find ways to use their own product - the aluminum tubes. Well, what would be a better alternative than to fill those tubes with the company's own-produced toothpaste, thus, making the competitors glance their way because another toothpaste brand had been launched in the market. Hapee toothpaste, with the tagline "Quality you can afford" came into being.

Sometime later, the company had also opted to adopt the use of plastic tubes instead of the aluminum ones. Today, other packaging companies supply Lamoiyan Corporation the tubes, closures and cartons, clearly indicating that Pedro had not only retained his employees but has opened its door also to the Filipino Packaging Industry and its numerous workers.

The company's name, Lamoiyan, happened to be the contraction of the Chinese name of Pedro's grandmother - Lim (Lam) Irene; the name was given to her in Hongkong. His grandmother played a great role in Cecilio's life as she instilled in her own family their Christianity.

Although the company was founded by 'accident', it doesn't mean that it would just rely on luck to boost their products. It would have to exert an extra effort to fight and weather all the storms in order to get a fair share in the toothpaste market. Fortunately, through hard work and sheer determination, the company had won a share of this same market dominated by multinational companies that had been there longer than they were. With this turn of events, multinational companies could not help now but give the company another lingering 'look'. Well, this company deserves that 'second look' because it had already been garnering awards in succession.

Recognizing the Fruits of Hard Work.
In recognition of its achievements, Lamoiyan Corporation was awarded the Most Outstanding Toothpaste Manufacturer (1990, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2001 & 2002) by the Consumers' Union of the Philippines. It is also an Agora Awardee as Marketing Company of the Year in 1992, conferred by the Philippine Marketing Association, and received a Special Citation for Best Outdoor Advertising in 1993 given by the Catholic Mass Media Awards. Lamoiyan President Cecilio K. Pedro received an award, too, from the Philippine Jaycees as One of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM), Business Entrepreneurship category in the year 1991. The company is likewise the recipient of awards such as Most Outstanding Program for Equal employment Opportunities for the Disabled in 1993, presented by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, and the Employer of the Year, also in 1993, from the Apolinario Mabini Rehabilitation Award. Most recent is the Ozanam Award (2004) for Service from the Ateneo de Manila Board of Trustees.

World-class Products Made Affordable for every Filipino.
Lamoiyan products are comparable with the output of multinational companies in terms of quality and world-class appeal. Hapee toothpaste, for instance, had brought to the market a wide variety of toothpaste products with different flavors and taste that would satisfy the young and the old alike. Hapee Pure White, for one, is fortified with maximum fluoride protection and a mild mint taste with Allantoin and Vitamin E for gum protection that will be an enjoyable experience for the whole family. Hapee Sparkling gels, introduced in 1988, comes in red (Explosive Menthol Red) and green gel (Fresh Green Outburst) and was designed for teens. Gumtect contains Triclosan, Allantoin and Vitamin E suitable for people with sensitive gums. Hapee Premium Mint has a double mint flavor suited for those who prefer a stronger mint taste. Kids are considered, too, because the company comes out with Hapee Kiddie Toothpaste that comes in 5 fruity flavors – Tutti Frutti, Strawberry, Melon, Orange and Green Apple. Kutitap Cool Mint and Kutitap Vibrant Red Gel are very much affordable by the budget conscious household.

Other company products are the Dazz Dishwashing Aids in paste and liquid. The paste contains Biosol-X that is effective in removing grease and stains, with free sponge in every cup. Meanwhile, the liquid has an anti-bacterial formula and comes in 3 variants – Fruity twist, Floral Fantasy, and Citrus fresh. Both paste and liquid are environment friendly and 40 percent more affordable than the other brands.

For fabric care, the company offers the Fash Liquid Laundry Detergent, which contains Optical Brighteners that help maintain the whiteness of white fabrics and retain the brightness of colored ones, aside from being an efficient remover of tough dirt and grime.

Tenderly Fabric Enhancer is a must-try, too. The only fabric enhancer specially formulated with antibacterial agents, it maintains fabric softness and retains the natural fabric absorbency. It comes in 3 variants, Morning Dew, Powder Fresh and Sweet Showers.

For women hygiene, Lacteena Feminine Wash had been formulated for that arresting feminine allure. It is safe to use and contains Lactoserum, Lactic Acid plus a cooling agent which cleanses and refreshes, giving an all-day feeling of coolness and confidence.

The beauty of it is that all these products are priced much, much lower than those same products that are to be found in the market today. And considering our economic situation now, this reduction of prices is a welcome treat to one and all.

Doubling Plant Capacity. Investing For the Future.
Added to this is that Lamoiyan Corporation is presently undergoing a plant expansion, adding modern machinery that would do the work efficiently, which proves that they are really finding ways to improve and bring their products into a world-class category. They are opening their plant to scheduled tour visits to make the people aware of how their products are made and assure the public that the quality of their products are not left to chance but are being worked out by people who are experts in this kind of endeavor. As another company value states, "In the pursuit of excellence the company will be doing things better than before and better than its competitors. We believe in the continual improvement of our products, our works and ourselves."

Moreover, the company has a clear-cut mission of improving the quality of life by bringing essential products within the reach of the common people. And a vision of having a Lamoiyan product in every home.

Lamoiyan Corporation may be considered a David as far as the multinational Goliaths are concerned but this relatively new company, compared to other companies that have been there longer, is proving to everyone that it deserves to be noticed because the company is here to stay, continuously making the difference for the Glory of God.

Republic of the Philippines
Malacañan Palace, Manila

Message

I extend my warmest greetings to Lamoiyan Corporation family on the occasion of your 16th Anniversary.

Your corporation has built a solid name for excellence and traditional Filipino values. I welcome the good news of your planned PhP100M expansion program as a gesture of confidence in the country's economic fundamentals and prospects for growth. Lamoiyan Corporation deserves public recognition not only for this huge investment, but also for the numerous charitable projects it has sponsored and initiated through the years.

I look forward to your great success as you enter the global market with your homegrown Philippine-made products. This expansion will no doubt create more jobs and opportunities for your fellow Filipinos. May your sterling achievements inspire others to emulate your example of diligence and hard work combined with a strong faith in the Lord and great pride in our country.

Mabuhay ang gawang Pilipino!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President

Message

Congratulations to the Lamoiyan Corporation on its 16th Anniversary celebration!

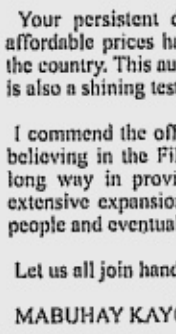
Your persistent desire to produce and deliver world-class products at affordable prices has undeniably made you one of the leading companies in the country. This auspicious occasion is not only recognition of that fact, but is also a shining testimonial to the rest of the world of the Filipino's ingenuity.

I commend the officials and staff of Lamoiyan Corporation for continuously believing in the Filipinos. The P100 million investment will definitely go a long way in providing good opportunities for our fellowmen. With your extensive expansion program, I believe that you will be able to serve more people and eventually uplift the Philippine economy.

Let us all join hands in uplifting Filipino lives!

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

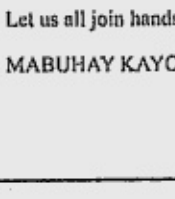
Message

My most jubilant congratulations to Lamoiyan Corporation on your 16th anniversary celebration!

I have always believed in the ability of the Filipino to do great things given the opportunity. This is why I am especially elated by the opening of a new, fully-computerized toothpaste manufacturing plant in Parañaque City, which is steadily gaining the status of an industrial giant in the Philippines. I am certain that many Parañaqueños are very eager to be part of this enterprise. Let us all focus on the work at hand and look forward to a brighter tomorrow.

Lamoiyan Corporation is a faithful investor in the Filipino spirit and a true partner in national development. I wish you all the best on your 16th year.

ROILO GOLEZ



Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque

Message

I would like to extend my warmest felicitations to one of Parañaque's resident business enterprises, Lamoiyan Corporation, on the company's P100M expansion plans.

The City of Parañaque vigorously promotes business in the locality as this would not only contribute to the growth of the city but to the overall economic development of our country. We wish you continued success so that not only will you bask in the rewards of your diligent efforts but also continue in making Parañaque proud of one of its local entrepreneurs.

HON. FLORENCIO M. BERNABE, JR.
City Mayor

Philippine Business for Social Progress

PBSP at 34:

Empower the Poor

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) reiterates its commitment to empower the poor sector of society in the celebration of its Foundation Day and 34th Annual Membership Meeting on December 9, 2004 at the Peninsula Manila.

Carrying the theme: "Business Empowering the Poor," the celebration will be highlighted by a keynote address focused on the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 - a set of goals ratified by member states of the United Nations which adheres to specific targets and milestones in reducing extreme poverty and worst forms of human deprivation by 2015.

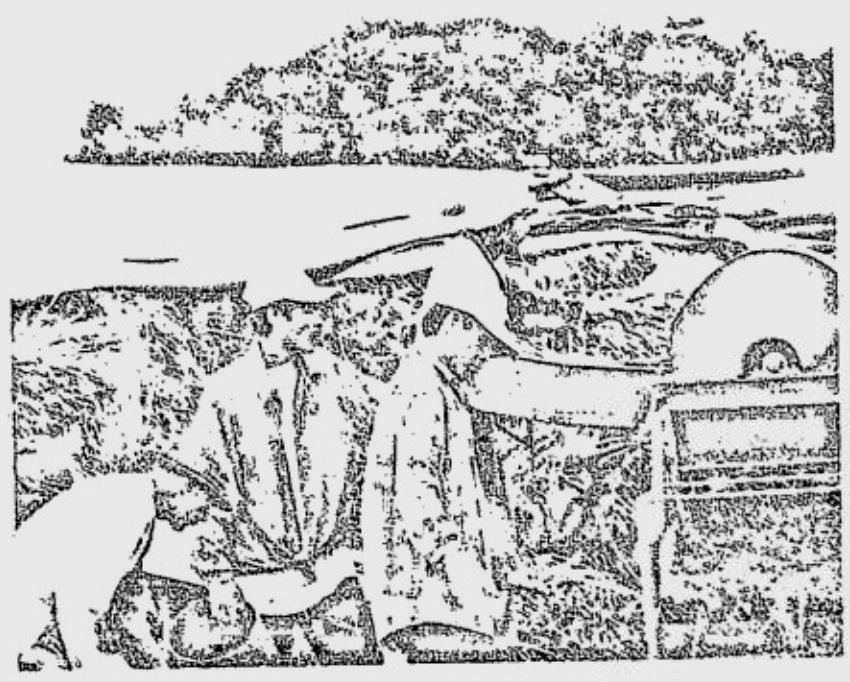
With over 180 members, PBSP is the only non-profit consortium of leading industries and corporations focused on social development and corporate responsibility, the first such organization in South East Asia.

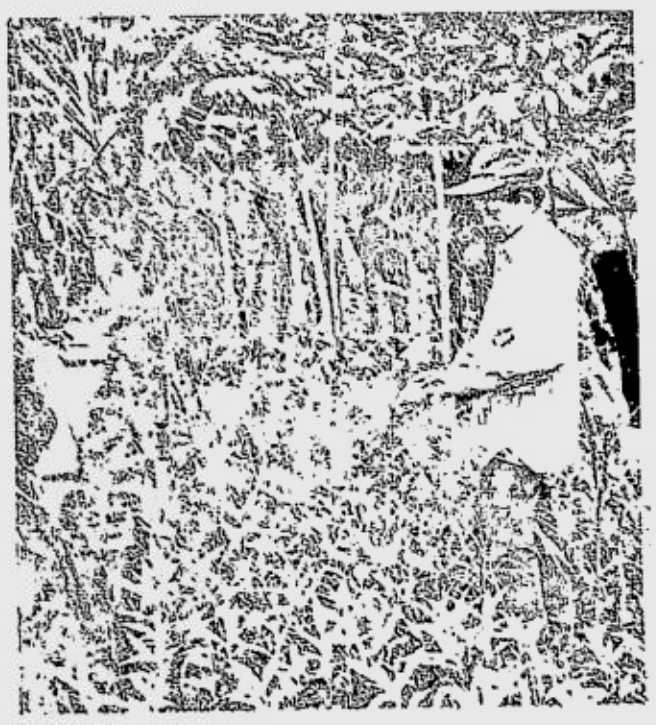
PBSP helps improve people's lives by promoting private sector participation in increasing economic activity, providing access to better education, giving basic health services, protecting the environment and organizing communities for collective planning and problem solving.

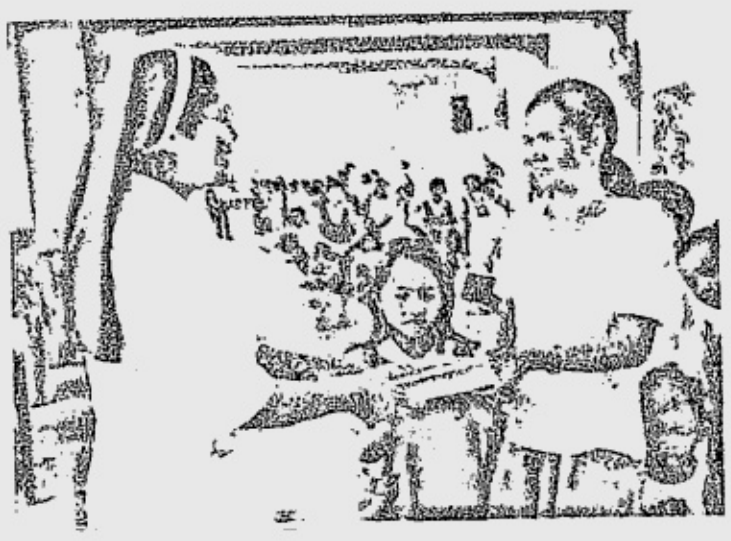
The 34th foundation celebration and membership meeting will be participated in by the captains of the industry and advocates of social responsibility who include PLDT chairman Manuel Pangilinan, Philippine Daily Inquirer chairman Marixi Prieto, Phinma treasurer Ramon del Rosario, Jr. PBSP president Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio and Trade & Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima, among others.

The event coincides with the launching of a book entitled "Planting Development Harvesting Peace and testimonials by scholars and beneficiaries of PBSP.

A new CD " Guitara, Lapis atbp., a collaboration of Joey Ayala and Noel Cabangon will also be launched during the celebration.







Messages

I GREET the member organizations, management and staff of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) on the occasion of your 34th Foundation Anniversary and Membership Meeting.

From its creation in 1970 up to the present, the PBSP has been in the forefront of corporate social responsibility programs. It has helped improve people's lives by promoting private sector participation in economic and social activities at the grassroots - providing access to education, giving basic health services, protecting the environment and organizing communities for collective planning and problem solving.

With some 200-development practitioners, PBSP is able to transform lives for the better. It has given hope to landless farmers, marginal fisherfolk, rural workers, urban poor and indigenous cultural communities. For the past 34 years, the very essence of corporate social responsibility took human shape and form with the heartwarming efforts of your staff, volunteers and member organizations to reach out to these marginalized sectors.

I commend the PBSP for its relentless efforts to work alongside government and our people in order to build a strong and progressive society. We are moving towards the same direction in working to combat poverty wherever it is present. The government cannot win the battle alone. It needs the heart, passion and conviction of a socially committed organization like the PBSP in implementing our blue print for growth and social justice that is the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan. I thus invite you to interfere with the different agencies and departments of government as well as our local government units in a common effort to cut poverty, fight corruption and bring honor and dignity to our flag.

Congratulations on your anniversary and may god's tranquil joy fill your hearts this Christmas.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Business for Social Progress!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

WE CLOSE 2004 and enter 2005 with more focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) prescribed by the United Nations. Set into action during the last Summit of Leaders of the United Nations during the year 2000, the MDG's are meant principally to and reduce extreme poverty, hunger, and child mortality, to improve health standards, enhance environmental standard, achieve universal primary education, and promote gender equality.

The United Nations have suggested that the role of business in the fulfillment of the MDG's could be focused on three key result areas: first, its own core business community; second, enhanced social investment; and third, advancing policy advocacy and dialogue.

Given PBSP's leadership in the NGO community and its prominence, it is important to enjoin our members to achieve our development objectives with a keener sense of commitment and a higher plane of endeavour as we enter the new year.

Just recently, the Board of Trustees was unanimous in agreeing that 2005 should be a year during which PBSP will work harder to build on its legacy of poverty reduction by being the leading proponent of MDG's and by aligning with the government's 10-point agenda.

Indeed, PBSP is better positioned than most organizations in our country to do just that. We can use our experience to mobilize the business community to do more for our people, to encourage not just more social investment but also better and more effective social investing, and to persuade a sometimes conservative business community to be a stronger advocate and agent for change.

I look forward to PBSP's increased leadership as we enter the threshold of a new year.

Mabuhay sa inyong lahat!

MANUEL V. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Philippine Business for Social Progress

The Business Sector Assists the Urban Poor

" IF YOU want peace, reach out to the poor," goes Pope John Paul II.

And the Philippine business sector heeds. Not after but even long before the pope made the appeal.

Created in December 1970, the Philippine Business for Social Progress has realized the need to factor into their plans and budgets social projects that help transform the community. Eventually, and as they expected, the positive changes redound to their business operations, thus proving a point-business cannot thrive in an environment where the majority are poor.

One specific concern that the business sector addressed is the improvement of the living condition of Manila's informal settlers. Coming in droves from rural areas which have suffered decades of neglect, squatter colonies have mushroomed in the capital in search of a better life.

" It is our duty to help them because if we don't there will be consequences," said Juan B. Santos, chair of Nestle Philippines and PBSP corporate citizenship committee.

PBSP knows full well that mere palliative won't change the face of urban poverty. Assistance should be holistic, touching every critical aspect of urban living. This means not only provision for decent living quarters but livelihood assistance, institution-building and organizational strengthening as well. In short, a comprehensive assistance program that gives dignity to both the recipient and the giver.

This led to the creation in November 2002 of STEP-UP or Strategic Private Sector Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction Program in Metro Manila - a clear example of how a public-private partnership is making an impact on the lives of 35,000 urban poor through a synergy of initiatives coming from the business sector, government, civil society and 24 homeowners associations.

There are at present 24 STEP-UP program sites in urban poor communities.

These, in concrete terms, are stepping up efforts to improve the lives of the urban poor. But how was it done?

First the Funds

PBSP struck gold with a $3.6 million grant from the Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction through the Asian Development Fund. PBSP, for its part, has committed to match the amount with $3.33 million in financial and in-kind assistance that would come from civil society partners and the private sector.

As of May 2004, about $750,000 have been raised from PBSP members and partners. Eighty percent of the P33 million released so far by the ADB went to community infrastructure projects, revolving fund for housing improvements, micro-enterprise development, training, partnership-building with professional organizations and risk reduction and management.

STEP -UP has a business consensus group composed of CEOs of Nestle Philippines, Pilipinas Shell, Central Azucarera Don Pedro, Petron Corporation, and Monark Equipment Corp. which acts as program advisory group.

The set-up has enabled the leveraging of financial assistance, skills sharing and mentoring between the employees of PBSP member companies and the assisted communities. " I feel a deep sense of satisfaction in seeing a community transformed from one marked by muddy streets with no access to water to one that is well-planned and maintained," said Max Paca, A PBSP active member and president of GST Philippines.

Giving a share for the urban poor can be an spontaneous gesture. In one occasion, a visiting CEO verbally agreed to donate P75,000 worth of landfill when he saw an on-going construction of a multi-purpose center. Or the case of ten business executives who pledged P2 million medical and dealership support during an organized tour.

Jose Antonio Banson, president of Monark Corporation said: " The advocacy of PBSP among the urban poor is very relevant. Seeing it for myself is better than any power point presentation. It is true many business owners want to help communities but oftentimes they don't have an inkling on how to go about it."

Social Preparation

Twenty four homeowners associations (HOAs) or 6,347 households (109% of the targeted household) from Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pasig, Marikina, Quezon City, Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas were given preparation to take on bigger assignments. A series of workshops helped empower the HOAs, giving them a vision, a functional organizational structure, sound operating systems and basic skills in implementing housing, livelihood and community infrastructure projects.

To maximize resources, minimize costs and give the beneficiaries a sense of ownership in the projects, "sweat equity" was provided by the beneficiaries themselves. Thus, men and women put in their share in the construction of 13 multi-purpose centers, 10 roads and drainage systems, 2 water systems, 2 school buildings, retaining walls, electrification and telephone installation for a total of 28 community infrastructure projects worth P26 million that were completed in record time.

For its part, Credit Suisse First Boston gave a scholarship grant to 20 students from Pasig STEP-UP while Deutsche Bank AG Manila financed the construction of a school building in Taguig which benefited some 1,500 Christian and Muslim students.

On health delivery, Medicard and Pfizer conducted their health outreach programs on separate occasions in the said communities.

Another 20 selected community members of HOAs in Pasig and Novaliches participated in a four-month multi-skills training course administered by Don Bosco Technical Institute on masonry, electrical, plumbing and carpentry.

Also available are meat processing, vegetable production and fish culture coordinated with the Department of Science and Technology's Food and Nutrition Research Institute and PBSP's Center for Rural Technology Development; housing improvement with Boysen Paints; reflexology and basic cosmetology with Artliz Enterprise and Splash Foundation.

Nestle Philippines, on the other hand, conducted a credit management training to ensure the viability of microenterprises. Also Nestle's Disaster Response team provided fire prevention and preparedness exercise for STEP-UP communities in Marikina, Malabon, Pasig and Navotas. An additional P0.47 million was put in place to ensure continuous drill.

Related to this, STEP-UP community members tapped the services of Meralco to fix electrical wiring and connections in their homes knowing that the outbreak of fire is common in the history of informal settlers.

Moreover, housing designs and loan packages with corresponding policies have been developed. The HOAs act as conduits and managers of funds. Professional groups provide the technical advice. Bluprint, a glossy architecture and design magazine channeled the proceeds of its recent art and furniture auction to this project.

" STEP-UP helped us build our capabilities as leaders, reinforcing our resolve to help ourselves and not rely on the rhetoric of politicians," shared Cipriano Fampulme, president of Nabiglapo HOA of Novaliches.

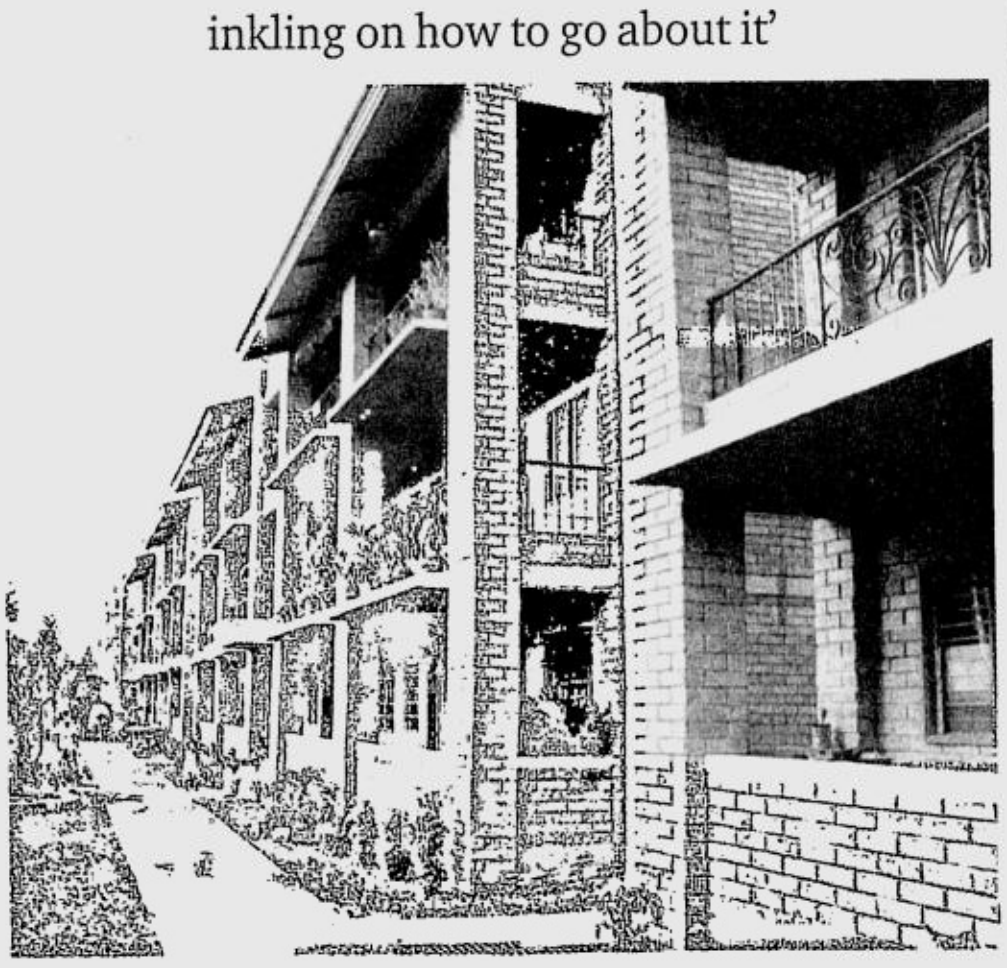
PBSP is optimistic it can sustain its operation in the years to come as the guideposts are encouraging.

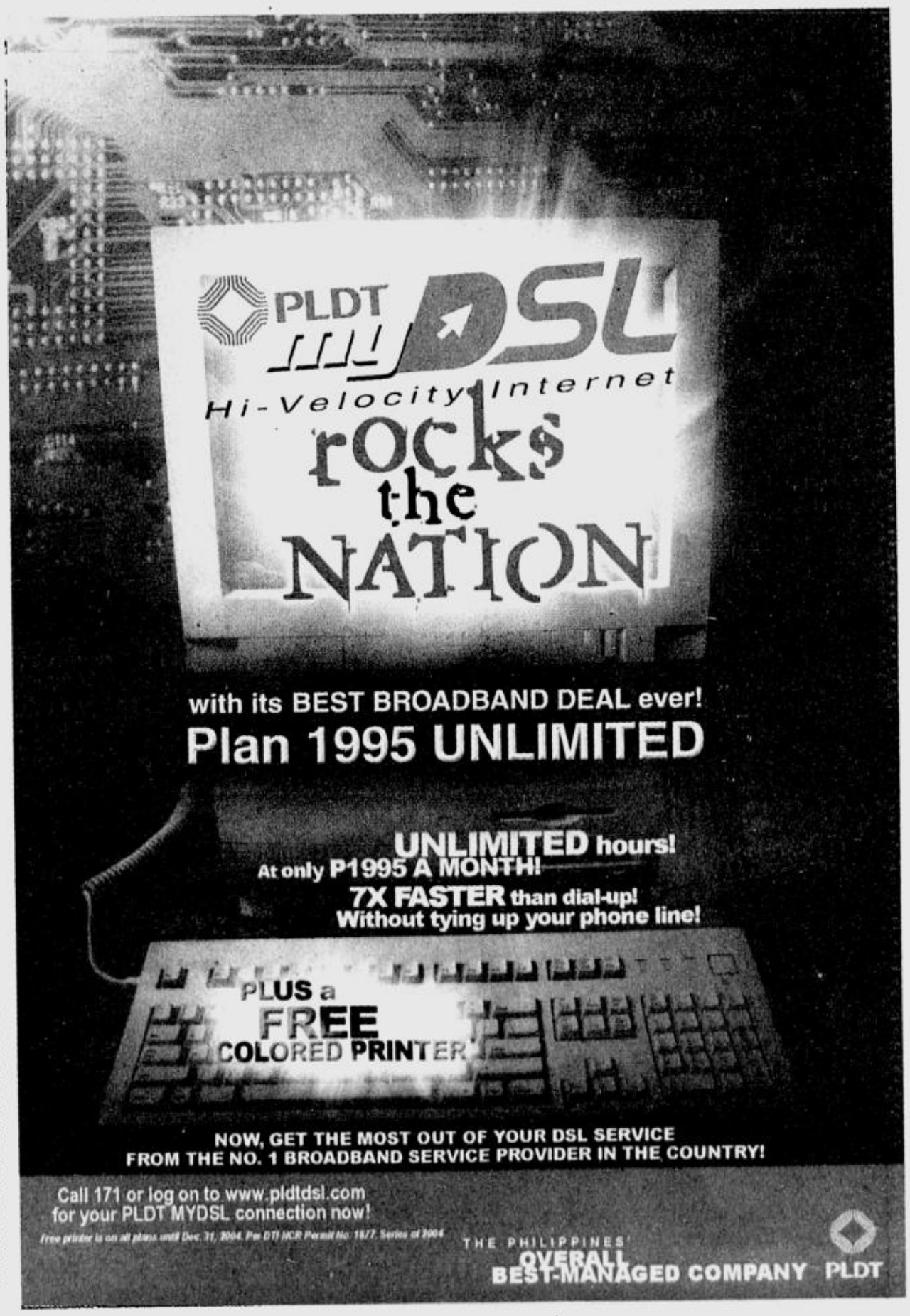
By investing in the urban poor communities, the business sector is now reaping dividends more than it ever imagined. Indeed, compassion knows no social class.

The Pope will be pleased.

'Business cannot thrive in an environment where the majority are poor'

'It is true many business owners want to help communities but oftentimes they don't have an inkling on how to go about it'





Big Business Helps Rebuild Mindanao

LIKE the mythical phoenix, Mindanao is now slowly rising from the ashes of economic and social strife - gaining further momentum towards recovery. Such positive developments were made possible through the collaboration of various private businesses that strive for the revitalization of the region long scarred by civil conflict.

The Philippine Business for Social Progress, an organization of businesses dedicated to social development, set in motion programs which call for community empowerment through highly focused and responsive programs.

At least 221,000 poor Filipinos in 14 provinces of Mindanao reaped the benefits of the foundation's multi-sectoral initiatives. A total of P 34 million pesos have been disbursed to 55 projects implemented with support from 83 partner organizations.

In the face of these developments, PBSP is cognizant that there is still more room for growth. As cited by PBSP's Mindanao Regional Committee chairman Paul G. Dominguez, "PBSP's peace and development projects in Mindanao have scored a number of successes."

"Ultimately, bigger and sustained corporate initiatives are needed to improve education and Mindanao and create a favorable environment for guns to fall silent," he added.

A history of discord

History was not very kind to the natives of Mindanao. A volatile mixture of Christians, various Muslim ethnic groups and the highlanders (lumad), the country's second largest island was predominantly populated by various Muslim groups by the turn of the century.

Between 1913 to 1917, a law which meant to quell peasant unrest in Luzon and Visayas by offering hectares of properties in Mindanao, but masqueraded as an endeavor to promote harmonious relations between Christians and Muslims had the latter and the lumads become impoverished squatters in their own land. Violent reactions from the Muslims were instantly suppressed by a preponderantly Christian Philippine Constabulary.

Oppression took its toll and by the 70's, several rebel Moro groups - all focused on resurrecting Islamic identity among Filipino Muslims - had emerged. Clashes between rebels and Philippine army ensued, exacerbated by failure to address real issues, among them economic problems.

Civil conflict has already spanned five administrations with no concrete solutions at hand. Mindanao suffered the brunt of arm struggle and as a result, majority of its inhabitants are left disproportionately poor and hungry.

Past and present administrations have exerted efforts to restore this region to its former glory but lingering distrust of the Moros in government's sincerity hinders a remarkable progress. Recognizing that the key to resolving civil conflict is to address the poverty problem, some foreign organizations and members of the private sector stepped in to lend a hand.

Gaining ground on education

In September 2000, PBSP launched its Peace and Development Program and Area Resource Management Program (ARM) which seeks to benefit 140,000 household in selected municipalities and barangays in the ARMM, Region IX and XII and CARAGA.

"It aims to encourage other business groups to redirect their programs towards creating an impact on the Human Development Index in Mindanao via increases and sustained investment in human capital development," explained Dominguez.

The program zeroed in on critical areas that greatly need assistance: promoting functional literacy among children and health and nutrition in schools; teacher's training; scholarships for indigent Muslims; construction of additional schoolbuildings; augmenting textbook supplies and providing well-equipped science laboratories.

"While many factors must be considered to make a positive impact, education and literacy will serve as the catalyst of economic and social development," he said.

Many schools in ARMM have to turn away enrollees due to lack of classrooms. In most towns, the student-textbook ra tio is depressing, at best with a minimum of three students sharing one book. Lack of school supplies, money to pay for tuition fees and proper nourishment are also contributing factors to an alarming rate of out-of-school youth.

On top of these, indigence and continuous armed struggle had families put more emphasis on safety and day-to-day needs. Education was relegated to the bottom line of priority hierarchy.

PBSP members each contributed to address these problem areas. SMART Philippines founded the PASA-Book Assistance Project, a collective book-gathering effort of its employees.

To reduce drop-out rates fostered by lack of proper nutrition among school kids, Kraft Philippines engaged in a ten-month feeding program for 54 schools in Mindanao. With healthy meals in the stomachs, children stay alert and focused on their lessons.

Tardiness and absenteeism have also become less of a problem with a pump boat (equipped with life vests) and bicycles donated by PBSP as transport support.

To date, PBSP's efforts include: construction of two additional school building, 2 science laboratories in Zamboanga and 11 libraries in Zamboanga, Sulu and Basilan; textbooks, reference books, desks and armchairs donations; supplemental feeding and de-worming projects for children; and basic computer and Internet training for teachers.

and infant immunization.

Some parts of Mindanao, particularly in the CARAGA region, had to endure a deplorable health system. In case of illnesses, residents had to rely on hope and prayers rather than efficient health care services.

This is the development challenge that the Caraga Health and Health Infrastructure Support Program aim to target. The Cullon Foundation teamed up with PBSP for this program. Funding was provided by the Fundacion ANESVAD of Spain and Agencia Espanfiola Para Cooperacion Internacional while PBSP furnished technical assistance with emphasis on improving capacities of rural health workers.

Ten rural health units (RHUs), manned by barangay health workers and made available for daily consultation, were established. "Through the RHU's, we are able to bring health service nearer to the poor," says Butuan city health officer Dr. Elsie Caballero.

The RHUs likewise serve as venue for daily education session on health prevention and management. The lessons are conducted by the health workers and are open to everyone.

As a result, more and more residents are taking the offensive on health care and are now seeking treatment. "It used to be that people were complacent. They lived with their diseases and ailments, thinking these could not be prevented. Now they seek treatment," added Caballero.

Although many Muslims and lumads were relegated to small parcels of land after the influx of multinational companies and settlers from Luzon and Visayas, small landowners saw light in agri-enterprise projects viable for less than a half a hectare farmland.

PBSP also conducted skills development and community enterprise management projects in Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, Lanao, Basilan and Cotabato which include a community-based organic fertilizer plant, innovative fish-drying and salt-making skills, mat-weaving and marketing, community-managed microlending, and upland farming.

Meanwhile, incorporated funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Ford Foundation, Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO), Exxon Mobil Philippines, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank (HSBC), La Tondeña Foundation, and Angelo King Building were mobilized by PBSP for the implementation of several endeavors directed to Cagayan-Iligan Corridor and Island Garden City of Samar. Projects include support for coastal and marine protection, enterprise and social services projects.

'Like the mythical phoenix, Mindanao is now slowly rising from the ashes of economic and social strife.'

'While many factors must be considered to make a positive impact, education and literacy will serve as the catalyst of economic and social development.'

Parents -Teachers Community Associations (PTCA) were reinforced and given vital grounding to implement and manage school-based projects.

Health intervention

Complementing the education and literacy initiatives are provisions for health services and potable water systems, training of community health workers,

Planting the seeds of hope

While the road to complete recovery is long and Mindanao is barely halfway through, PBSP has already started the healing process, planted the seeds of hope and is now calling for others to join in this very significant journey.

"The call for private sector support and involvement in Mindanao is becoming louder and forceful," declared Dominguez. "The task may be daunting but it needs to be done without delay."

Encouraging productivity and managing resources

Perhaps one of the significant PBSP endeavors is the introduction of sustainable livelihood programs for the residents.

Hope Empowers Visayas

PHILIPPINES Business for Social Progress (PBSP)-Visayas Regional Operations (VRO) recognizes this but also believes that love is further manifested in action more than words and in giving particularly to those who cannot return the favor.

PBSP continues its commitment of equipping and empowering marginalized communities - its gesture of love for the Visayas.

On the forefront of activities are PBSP's Area Resource Management (ARM) Programs that have been a conduit of change in Olango, Mactan, Bohol, Negros, Cebu Hillyland, and Samar.

According to Miguel Juan del Gallego, Visayas Regional Committee Chairman, despite threats of epidemic, peace and order, Visayas has been peaceful and spared from recession.

"Our programs and partnerships forged in PBSP will continue to provide glimmer of hope in the region," he said.

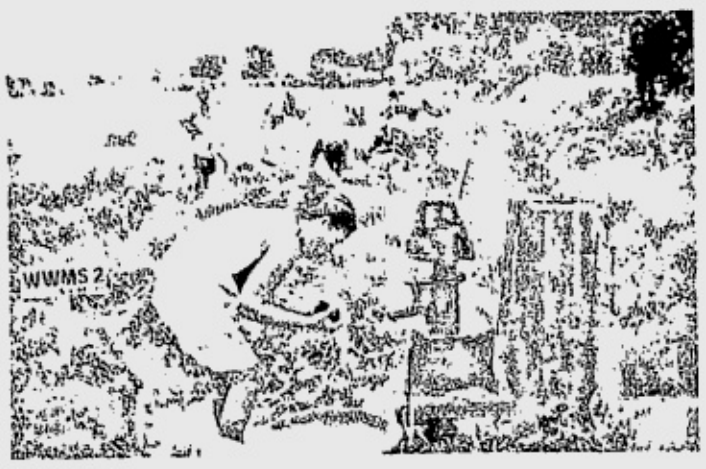
He noted that the annual contributions of PBSP Visayas-based member-companies, have advanced PBSP's primary goal of poverty reduction and enabled it to attract more donors.

Meanwhile new partners including international donors namely the German Agro Action, Canadian International Development Agency, the Dutch NGO DISOP and Karl Kubel Stiftung of Germany paved the way for the implementation of new projects which benefited 9,684 poor households.

Environment Is Everybody's Business

Known as a sanctuary of over 10,000 migratory birds, Olango Island has gained the business sector's support. Lexmark Philippines funded the Barangay Sabang Primary Health Care Project. Lexmark, CHF and Petron Corp. adopted mangrove plantations and provided employee volunteers during reforestation efforts.

PBSP has also taken part in the formation of Ocean Care Advocates Foundation Inc., an environmental coalition among the major resort establishments in Mactan Island. The group's milestone was a successful Environmental Summit, which gave



participants a comprehensive review of existing laws and policies. The summit also served as a venue in the formulation of action agenda to address the environmental issues they are facing.

Meanwhile, the ten-year ARM program has been successfully completed in Bohol. A growing number of farmers have refrained from using chemical pesticides and have shifted to organic pesticides.

Income increases have also been remarkable. Prior to ARM project, 90% of the farmer-beneficiaries were earning only an average of PhP1,108 every month. Ten years into the program, it has been recorded that 75% of the beneficiaries are earning an average monthly income of PhP8,500 while 8% earn as much as PhP16,500 per month.

Similarly, ARM program in Negros is on its last stretch. The Bago Upland Resource Management Program (BURMP) and the Promoting Participation in Sustainable Enterprises (PPSE) programs ensure the continuity of Negros ARM.

PBSP has pursued a Watershed Management Program in the hillylands of Cebu. The interventions in economic and stakeholder development, farm productivity and enterprise development, as well as social services benefited 1,135 marginal upland farming households.

As part of the 15 community-based organizations assisted by PBSP, the Samar Resource Management Program helped 1,445 households in three municipalities along Maqueda Bay in Western Samar.

With regard to the natural resources in Samar severely depleted in recent years, PBSP has also established six marine protected areas covering a total of 47 hectares.

Corporate volunteerism became the business sector's expression of concern for the community. Under the Adopt-A-Hectare project, over 750 company executives and employees from six companies devoted their time and energy in the reforestation of Cebu Hillyland and the planting of mangroves in Olango Island.

Moving the Marginalized Workforce

The workforce is most integral in the thriving market of Visayas. PBSP, through its collective efforts, saw the potential of this group.

Seven workers' cooperatives went through institution building and enterprise development where concerns like lack of skills-in-demand, underemployment and downsizing were addressed. This effort proved beneficial, providing 3,079 marginalized skilled workers financial mobility.

Cooperatives have always served as subcontractors for exporters but with the technical assistance given by PBSP, they have started to take on other roles as well.

With organizational, financial and operating systems installed by PBSP, cooperatives have expanded their services, transactions and membership.

Other interventions soon followed such as product development and marketing. This gave workers more confidence to manage their own resources and express their creativity.

Moreover, PBSP facilitated market linkages between these cooperatives and major exporters in Metro Cebu. They have also encouraged product development and aggressive marketing through local exhibits in shopping mall and trade fairs, which have allowed cooperatives to have a better feel of the local and export markets.

Enhancing Education

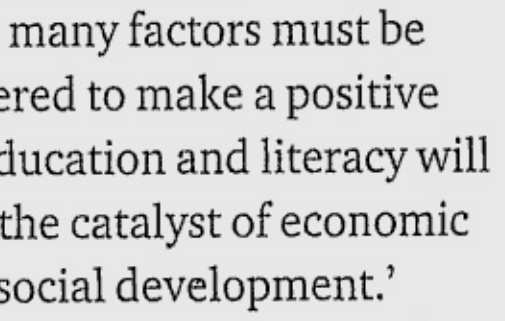
PBSP banks on the education of the people. So with its corporate social responsibility partners Philip Morris Manufacturing and Coca-Cola Foundation Inc., it saw the construction of school buildings and the trainings of parent-teacher community associations, which benefited 7,700 public elementary and high school students in Leyte and Samar.

Students from the south have become more tech-savvy as well. Under the Cemex with a Heart program, 2,400 high school students in Naga National High School now enjoy a newly furnished computer laboratory. Moreover, three public high schools and its 2,000 students in Metro Cebu became recipients of wired computer laboratories through Globe Telecom's internet connectivity program.

Through Coalition for Better Education other reforms in education received the light of day including the Center for Teacher Excellence (CefTEx), a training facility for teachers which is the first of its kind n the country.

PBSP addresses the gap between the quality of workforce available and the needs of the industry through its partnership with the Lapu-Lapu Science and Technology Education Center (LLSTEC), a pilot school that implements a demand-driven curriculum.

Through constant teacher train-



'The annual contributions of PBSP Visayas-based member-companies, have advanced PBSP's primary goal of poverty reduction and enabled it to attract more donors.'

ing, infrastructure support and scholarship assistance, PBSP equips the young people of Central Visayas with knowledge, skills, and competencies required by the information-driven companies. This project has even been adopted in Danao by its local government units and business groups because of the immediate improvements seen in the quality of instruction at the LLSTEC.

For its efforts, PBSP Visayas was chosen as an outstanding institution that has contributed to the city's social development by the Cebu City Government and the Cebu Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the Philippine Army also gave it a special recognition for initiating the income-generating activities among the fisherfolk of Maqueda Bay in Western Samar.

Del Gallego acknowledges the partnerships of business, communities and local government in delivering much-needed assistance to the poor sectors of Visayas.

"There is no challenge so great that cannot be overcome, especially by those who have less but supported by those who have more," he added.

PHILIPPINE BUSINESS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS
Member Companies
As of 30 September 2004

COMPANY

1 A. Soriano Corporation
2 AB Capital and Investment Corporation
3 Aboitiz & Company, Inc.
4 Aboitiz Jebsen Bulk Transport Corporation
5 ACC International Trading
6 Agencia Bacolod
7 Airfreight 2100, Inc.
8 Airlift Asia, Inc.
9 AIT Marketing and Development Corporation
10 American Wire & Cable Company
11 Anflo Management and Investment Corporation
12 APO Cement Corporation
13 Asian Appraisal Company, Inc.
14 Atlantic, Gulf & Pacific Co. of Manila
15 Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corporation
16 Banco de Oro Universal Bank
17 Basic Consolidated, Inc.
18 Benguet Corporation
19 Bio-Tech Environmental Services Phils., Inc.
20 BISCOM, Inc.
21 BJ Coco Oil Mill, Inc.
22 Borromeo Bros. Estate, Inc.
23 C. Alcantara & Sons, Inc.
24 CADP Group Corp.
25 CAWC, Inc.
26 Cintflex Industrial Corporation
27 Cebu Daily News
28 Cebu Private Power Corporation
29 Century Rural Bank, Inc.
30 Citibank, N.A.
31 Communications Electrical Equipment and Supply Co., Inc.
32 Compinco Trading Corporation
33 Consolidated Industrial Gases, Inc.
34 Cotabato Light & Power Company
35 Credit Suisse First Boston HK Ltd.
36 Davao Import Distributors, Inc.
37 Davao Light & Power Co., Inc.
38 DDB Philippines, Inc.
39 Degalen Corporation
40 Del Monte Philippines, Inc.
41 Delbros, Inc.
42 Diwa Learning Systems, Inc.
43 DMC Busa Printers
44 Dole Philippines, Inc.
45 Dow Chemical Pacific Ltd.
46 East Asia Utilities Corporation
47 East-West Seed Company, Inc.
48 Edward Keller (Phils.), Inc.
49 EMC (Email Company)
50 Ephraim Sales and General Merchandise
51 ePLDT
52 Equitable PCI Bank
53 Ever Corporation
54 F Salon & Body Spa
55 FS. Dizon & Sons, Inc.
56 Figaro Coffee Systems, Inc.
57 Filway Marketing, Inc.
58 First Consolidated Bank
59 First Philippine Holdings Corporation
60 Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation
61 Francisco Motors Corporation
62 Fuller-O'Brien Paint Co., Inc.
63 Ginebra San Miguel, Inc.
64 GST Philippines, Inc.
65 Harbest Agribusiness Corporation
66 Heinz UFC Philippines, Inc.
67 HMR Group of Companies
68 Ho Tong Hardware, Inc.
69 Hooven Philippines, Inc.
70 IBM Philippines, Inc.
71 Iligan Cement Corporation
72 Infos, Inc.
73 International Container Terminal Services, Inc.
74 Jardine Davies, Inc.
75 Jewm Agro-Industrial Corporation
76 Joaquin Cunanan & Co.
77 Juanito King & Sons, Inc.
78 KPMG Laya Manonghaya & Co.
79 Landco Pacific Corporation
80 Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company
81 LMG Chemicals Corporation
82 Lu Do & Lu Ym Corporation
83 Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation
84 Manila Bankers Life Insurance Corporation
85 Manila Cordage Company
86 Marilag Corporation
87 Marsman Estate Plantation, Inc.
88 McMai (Cebu) Trading Corporation
89 MCPI-Datng Bayan Agro-Industrial Corporation
90 MEDICard Philippines, Inc.
91 Megaworld Corporation
92 Menzi & Co., Inc.
93 Mercury Drug Corporation
94 Metro Pacific Corporation
95 Metro Stonerich Corporation
96 Mindanao Development Bank
97 Modern Glass Distributors, Inc.
98 Monark Equipment
99 Mt. Kitanglad Agri-Ventures, Inc.
100 NAM Realty
101 Negros Navigation Co., Inc.
102 Nesic Philippines, Inc.
103 Nestlé Philippines, Inc.
104 Nieva's Arts & Crafts, Inc.
105 Nobility Collection Agency, Inc.
106 Optima Typographics
107 Organizational Performance Associates, Inc.
108 Oriental & Motolite Corporation
109 Oxiana Phils., Inc.
110 Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc.
111 Pacific Traders & Manufacturing Corporation
112 Paglas Corporation
113 Pali Roces Corporation
114 Parity Values, Inc.
115 PCCCI Cooperative Development Center
116 Peoples Agri Service & Supply Inc.
117 Petron Corporation
118 Phelps Dodge Philippines Energy Products Corp.
119 Philex Mining Corporation
120 Philippine Appliance Corporation
121 Philippine Communication Satellite Corporation
122 Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
123 Philippine Investment Management (PHINMA), Inc.
124 Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company
125 Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.
126 Philippine Tobacco Flue-Curing & Redrying Corporation
127 Philippine Wallboard Corporation
128 Philips SemiConductors Philippines, Inc.
129 Philtranco Service Enterprises, Inc.
130 PICOP Resources, Inc.
131 Pilipinas Kao, Inc.
132 Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation
133 PILMICO Foods Corporation
134 Pioneer Hi-Bred Philippines, Inc.
135 Ponce-Millan Realty, Inc.
136 Ponderosa Farms, Inc.
137 Primeseal Builders Construction Phils., Inc.
138 Prudential Guarantee & Assurance, Inc.
139 Publicis AMA, Inc.
140 Punongbayan & Araullo
141 Quezon City Theatrical Enterprises, Inc.
142 R. Air Services GSA Zamboanga
143 Rangu International Corporation
144 Regency Inn
145 RGV Real Estate Center, Inc.
146 Rhine Marketing Corporation
147 Riverside Medical Center, Inc.
148 Rizal Theatrical Co., Inc.
149 RJS Industrial Construction & Development Corporation
150 Roces Drug Corporation
151 Roxas and Company, Inc.
152 San Miguel Corporation
153 Sarangani Agricultural Co., Inc.
154 SCCP Land, Inc.
155 SGV & Co.
156 SkyCable Bacolod
157 SMART Communications, Inc.
158 SM Investment Corporation
159 Solar Electric Company, Inc.
160 Southeast Asia Food, Inc.
161 Southern Industrial Gases Philippines, Inc.
162 Sta. Ana, Rivera and Company, CPA's
163 Sun Microsystems Philippines, Inc.
164 Sun Star Davao
165 Suyen Corporation
166 Telengtan Brothers & Sons, Inc.
167 The Bookmark, Inc.
168 The Freeman
169 The Philodrill Corporation
170 The Shell Company of the Philippines Ltd.
171 Trumpets, Inc.
172 Unilever Philippines
173 Union Bank of the Philippines
174 Union Cement Corporation
175 Union Galvasteel Corporation
176 Unisys Philippines
177 United Laboratories, Inc.
178 United Pulp and Paper Company, Inc.
179 Welding Industries of the Phils., Inc.
180 Wise Holdings, Inc.
181 Wyeth Philippines, Inc.
182 Yutivo Corporation
183 Zuellig Corporation

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

B9

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Thinking out of the box

FILIPINOS seem to have an affinity to boxes. Wherever port you may be, the chance for you to see a fellow Filipino lugging along a box is pretty high. In most foreign countries, port officials easily identify Philippine nationals just by looking at the luggage they carry, which will include at least one 'balikbayan' box (a big box of goods Filipinos from abroad bring home to their loved ones). The box has now become part of Filipino culture.

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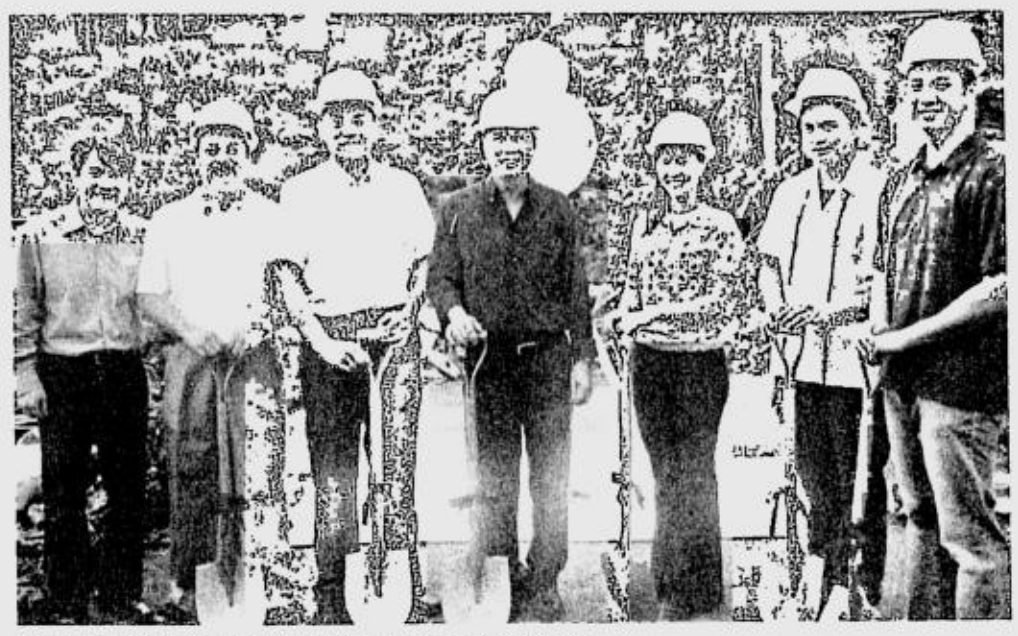

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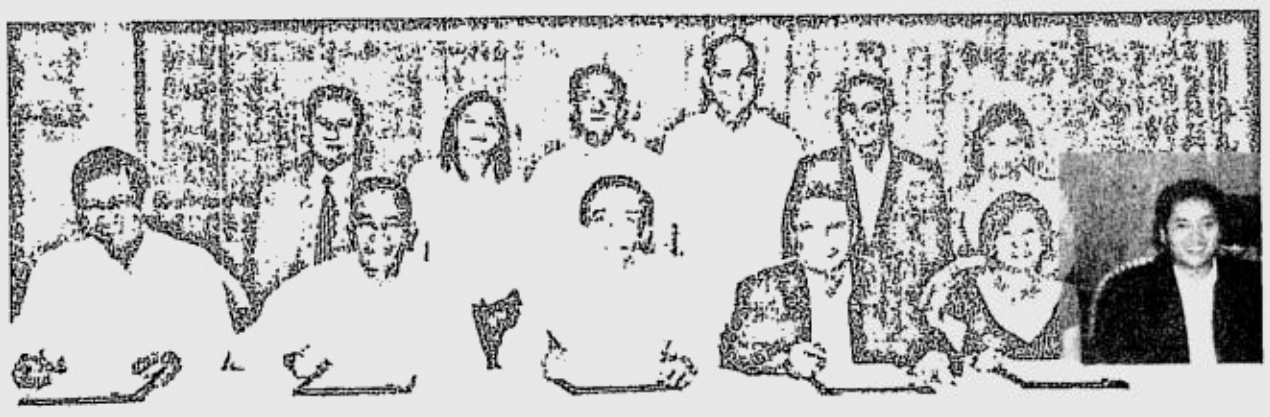

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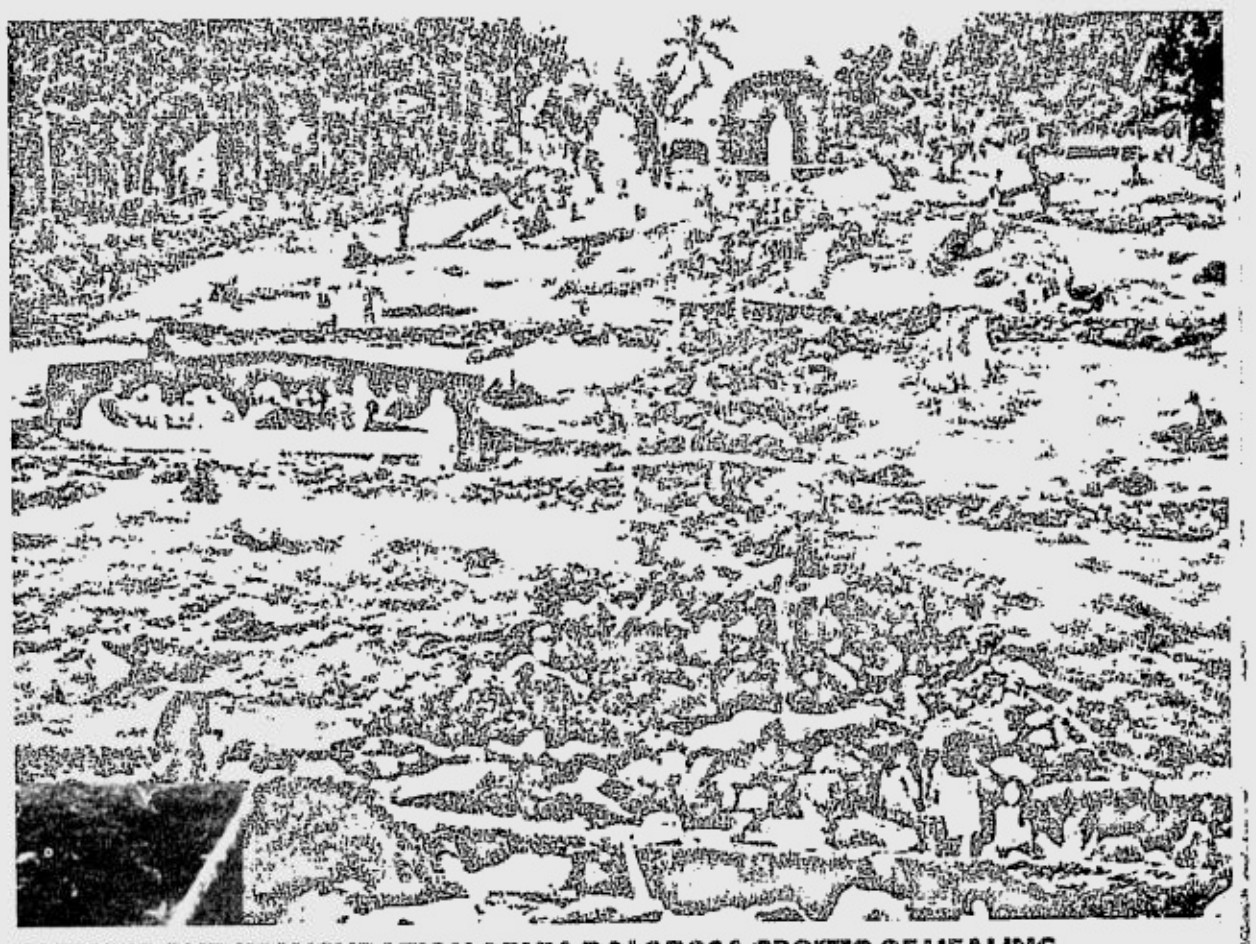

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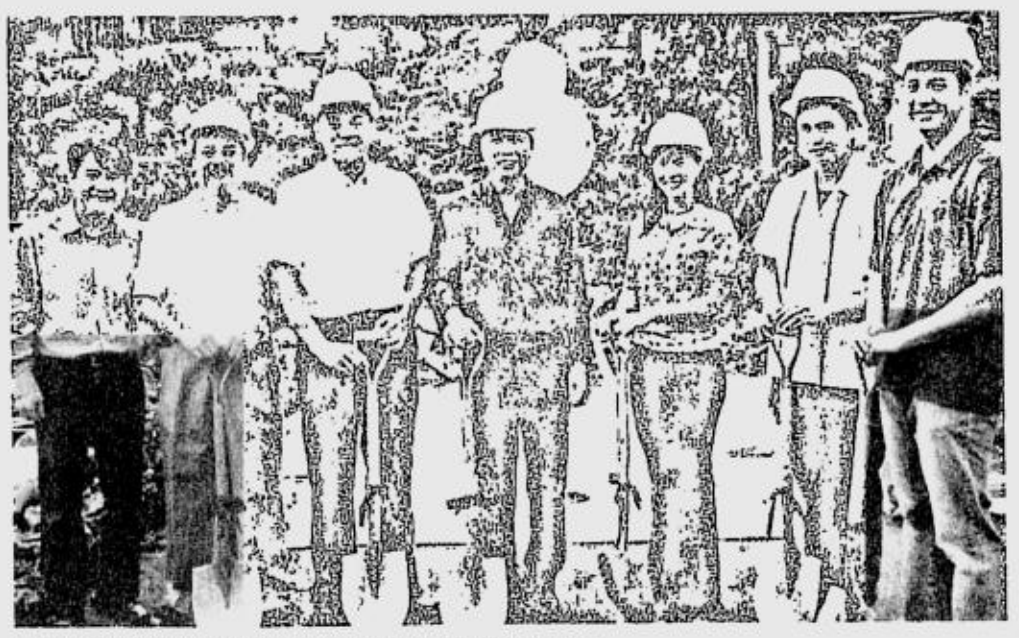

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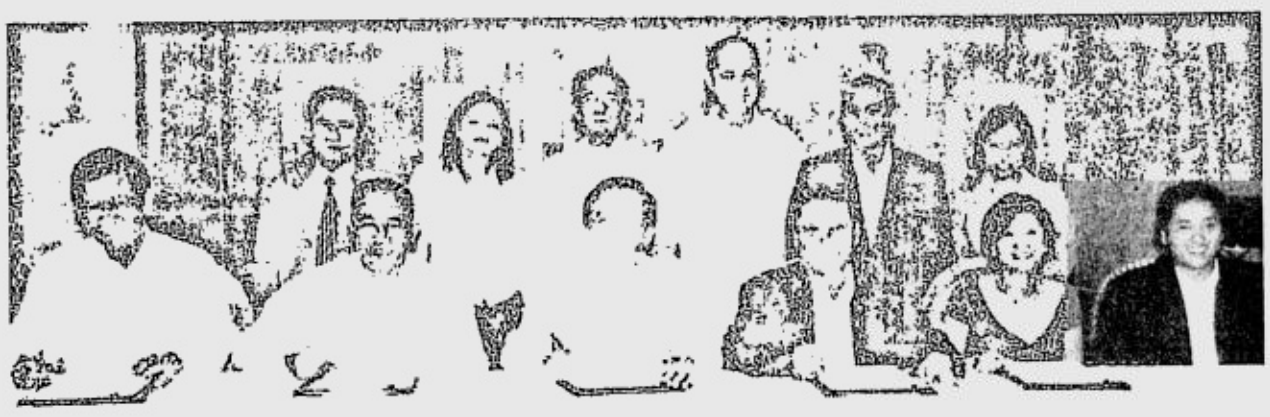

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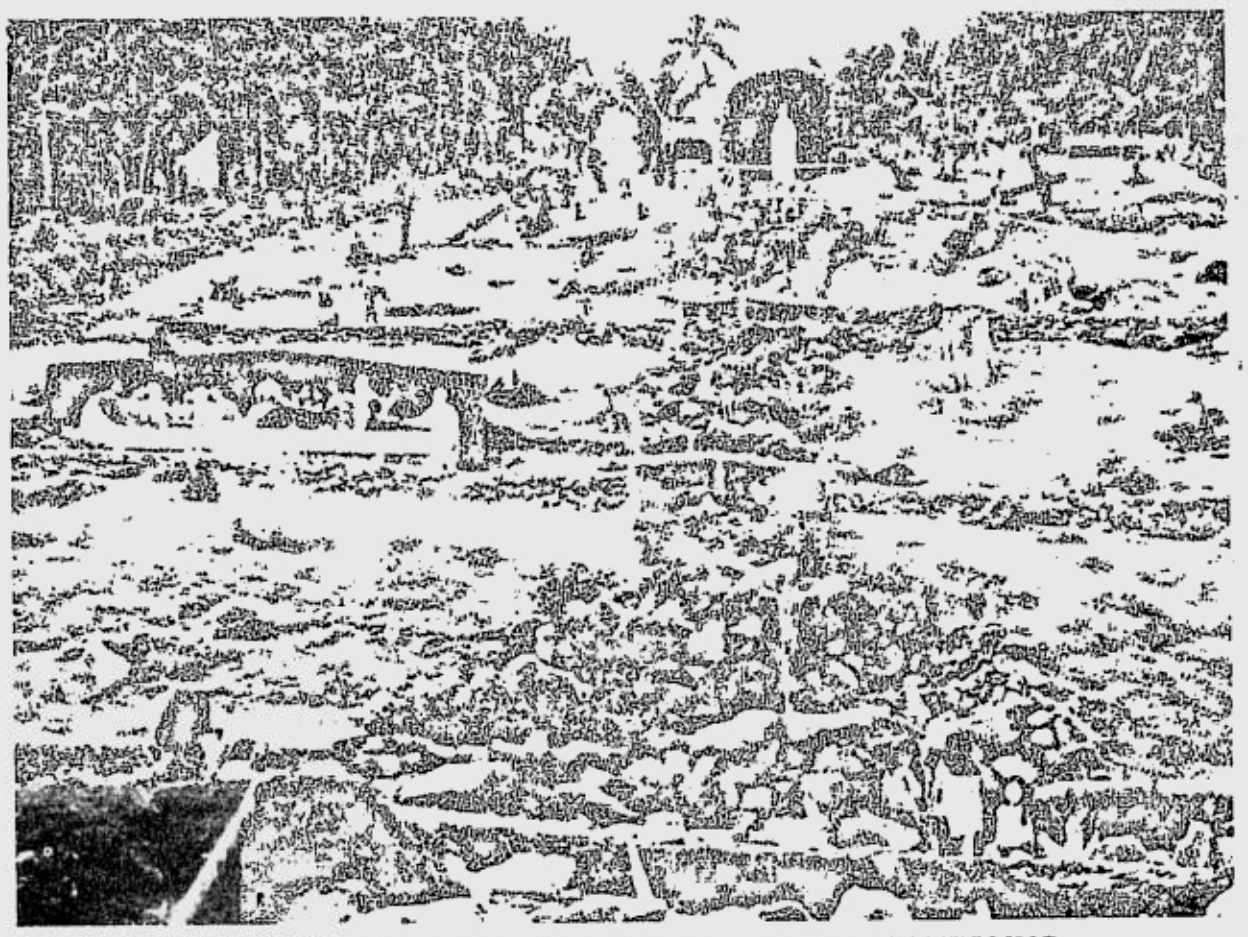

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE TRINIDAD LONTOC REYLES HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG THE HEIRS UNDER DOC. 07, PAGE 52, BOOK 19, SERIES 2004 OF NOTARY PUBLIC R.T. SAMSON'S NOTARIAL REGISTRY AND AUTHENTICATED BY VICE CONSUL EDWARD CO YULO AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA (PDI NOV. 25, DEC. 2,9, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUIS & BELLA LAREZA has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs under Doc. No. 70, Page No. 15, Book No. 157, Series of 2004 in the Notarial Registry of Atty. Gerardo R. Flores, Mandaluyong City. (PDI-Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELIAS O. VERDADERO who died on July 11, 1990 at Piscataway, New Jersey, USA has been extrajudicially settled with partition and with Affidavit of Adjudication and waiver of right among his heirs per Doc. No. 009128 Series of 2004 under the seal of the Consulate General of the Philippines, New York, USA Ms Maria Lourdes C. Legaspi.
(PDI-Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that the original Certificate of Ownership of a Heritage Park Lawn Lot ID # 04L08588 and Serial No. 62932 under the name of CARL DOMINIC E. ISLA was lost.
(PDI-Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2004)

Notice is given Re: Lost Phil. Pass Port #HH850539 issued to Carmelo P. Pundan (PDI-12/9/04)

QC Sports Club Stock Cert under the name of JIM-MAR INC (Jimmy Lo Cham). If no contest received new cert will be issued. (PDI - Dec 2, 9 & 16, 2004)

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Clerk III – Item Nos.OMBA-CK3-31-1998 and OMBA-CK3-35-1998; SG-6

Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

Interested applicants should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following: 1) AN APPLICATION LETTER STATING THE POSITION/ITEM APPLIED FOR: 2) DULY ACCOMPLISHED PERSONAL DATA SHEET (CSC FORM 212); 3) 1" x 1" PICTURE (COLORED); 4) BAR RATING/CSC CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY; 5) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS; 6) CERTIFICATE OF SEMINARS/TRAININGS ATTENDED (CSC ACCREDITED) AND 7) CERTIFICATE FROM PREVIOUS/PRESENT EMPLOYMENT STATING THE POSITION, ACTUAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (IF APPLICABLE)

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Col. AMADO Q. PAZ
PC/DDM (Ret)

Died on December 6, 2004

His remains lie in state at the Molave Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 11, 2004 after the 9:00 A.M. Service.

MARCELINO KAGAOAN ALLAS

Born February 11, 1925

Died peacefully on November 20, 2004 in Lubbock, Texas

He is survived by his wife, **Lilia**; children, **Ester (Joji)** and Erlito Fider, **Malou** and Cezar Baula, **Joel** and Nenette, **Grace** and Andy Alcid, and **Jess**; and grandchildren, Karla, Ysabel, Bea, Guia, Kathryn, Chloe and Lenny.

He was buried in Lubbock on November 26, 2004. A memorial service will be held at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati on Saturday, December 11, 2004 at 10 o' clock in the morning.

PAST GRAND KNIGHT
SALVADOR LOZADA LAPAK

(Founder, Knights of Columbus Diego Silang Council 7656, QC South)

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 5, 2004 at the age of 83.

His wife **Perla**; children **Virgie** and **Rolly**, **Romy** and **Lanie**, **Maribel** and **Ed**, **Aleth** and **Ron**, **Baby** and **Rick**, **Butch** and **Irma**, **Jerome** and their children together with his sister **Asuncion L. Fuentebella** request other relatives and friends to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Homes, Araneta Blvd., Quezon City. The interment will be on Sunday, December 12, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DIOSDADO E. EMBALZADO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 1, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, and messages of sympathy, and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in hour of bereavement.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MANUEL C. VICTORIO, JR.

who joined his Creator on November 27, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

CESAR "JOKER" USERO UBALDE

of Viga and Virac, Catanduanes and Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
(November 1, 1945 – December 7, 2004)

Peacefully joined our Lord and his parents CASIANO and ASUNCION UBALDE on December 7, 2004, in Metro Manila, Philippines.

His brothers and sisters and in-laws: **Marino** and **Linda**, **Aven** (†) and **Lea**, **Edith** and **Vic San Juan**, **Marichu** and **Abe Tañada**, **Susan** and **Camilo Ordinario**, **Felipe** and **Ester** (†), and **Rodolfo**, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, and other relatives and friends, give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life and request the pious reader to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at No. 79 Aguho St., Project 3, Quezon City.

Interment is on December 12, 2004 at the Heaven's Gate Memorial Park, Antipolo City at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

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CLASSIFIEDS

HUMAN RIGHTS IN "IYO ANG KATARUNGAN" DEC. 5, IBC 13, SUNDAY, 10pm.

Human rights are those rights we deserve as human beings and are necessary to live as a human being. It is defined as the supreme, inherent, and inalienable rights to life, to dignity and to self-development. It is concerned with issues in both areas of civil and political rights, economic, social and culture rights founded on internationally accepted human rights obligations to which the Philippine Government is a state party.

On December 5, 2004, in Iyo ang Katarungan! with Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., Sunday on IBC 13, 10pm, will feature **Chairperson Purificacion Valera Quisumbing** of the Philippine Commission on Human Rights.

"Iyo ang Katarungan" brings justice closer to the people is the aim of Iyo ang Katarungan. It acquaints viewers on the general operations of the Philippine judiciary. Hosted by Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., Court Administrator of the Supreme Court was a former associate justice of the Court of Appeals, he is also the Undersecretary of the Department of Justice from 1995-98, national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (1987) and topnotcher in the 1971 bar exams with a grade of 89.85%, member of the Judicial and Bar Council, 2000 outstanding Jurist awarded by the Consumers Union of the Philippines, Justice

Justice Pres Velasco, Jr.

Velasco finished his degree of AB Political Science from U.P. in only three (3) years (a U.P. record), he is a member of the Editorial Board of the Philippine Law Journal and IBP Law Journal, past commissioner of the Committee on Bar Discipline, past board director of the Philippine Bar Association, a member of the Rotary Club of Manila. The show "Iyo ang Katarungan" through Court Administrator Velasco has also been providing free legal opinion and advice to people from walks of life.

Snow White: A modern retelling of a classic tale

THIS wild cat is not wild at all... always smiling, Paulo can be very charming and affectionate, much like your pet cat at home who likes being stroked and is very playful. Paulo is six years old and is diagnosed as PDD-NOS which is one of the Autistic Spectrum Disorders. He plays the wild cat in Snow White: A Modern retelling of a classic tale, together with younger brother, Mark. The play is very unique in that it brings together the special children and the youth of the community to perform together in one stage. The stage play will be a modern version of Snow White. It will be held on Dec. 11. For sponsorships, tickets and reservations, please contact Honey Lee at 0919-387-1182 or Marite at 0920-913-0642 or Neda at the OLBL Praish Office 824-2688. Sponsorships of tickets for the benefit of children in the mission areas are also encouraged. Proceeds will go to the Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities and other projects of the Family Life Ministry. OLBL is located at 80 Washington St., Merville Park, Paranaque.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Land Transportation Offices wishes to inform the public of the extension of the closing date in the conduct of the On-line Auction of sixty three (63) Limited Edition Vanity License Plates (VLP), up to **December 16, 2004**, with the following closing time per Lot Number:

ORDER OF SALE -ON-LINE BIDDING
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1. Duly accomplished Application Form
2. Official Receipt issued by LTO Central Office or Deposit slip from Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)

Bidding procedures and requirements can be downloaded from the LTO website www.lto.gov.ph. Deadline for submission of application forms shall be on December 15, 2004; 5:00 p.m. For further information, you may contact Ms. Leda Z. Jose (02) 921-9057 or Ms. Heriberta Domingo at (02) 921-9077.

(Sgd.) ANNELI R. LONTOC
Asst. Secretary

(PDI - December 9, 2004)

BUSINESS

PNCC seeks another 25¢ increase in SLEX toll fee

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp. yesterday said it wanted an additional 25-centavo per kilometer increase in the South Luzon Expressway toll fee.

The state-run toll operator said it had asked the Toll Regulatory Board for an increase of 29 centavos per kilometer in the SLEX toll fee to 81 centavos per kilometer from the current 52 centavos per km.

But the TRB approved an increase of only 4 centavos per kilometer, allowing the PNCC to collect 56 centavos per kilometer along the SLEX starting January.

The TRB also allowed PNCC Skyway Corp. to increase its toll fee by P10 and the PEA Tollway Corp. to raise its rate by P3 effective Jan. 1.

"We are not happy with the increase the TRB gave us. It is insufficient. We will ask them (TRB) to reconsider," said PNCC chair Pastor Ramos in an interview.

PNCC spokesperson Cheche Chavez said the state-run toll operator had also asked the TRB to allow an increase in the North Luzon Expressway toll fee to 71 centavos per kilometer. The TRB did not act on the request saying it would wait for the petition of Manila North Tollways Corp. The Lopez-led joint venture with the PNCC is taking over the operations of the NLEX in early 2005.

MNTC said the toll fees along the NLEX might go up by about 380 percent once it had taken over the NLEX early next year to allow the private group to recover its $371-million investment and to pay its creditors.

"The agreement with the TRB was that we will reduce the toll increase this year provided they will allow us to recover (our cost) in 2005. We originally asked for 72 centavos but they asked us to bring it down to 52 centavos," noted Ramos.

The TRB said the Skyway toll fee would go up by P10 and by P3 for the use of the Coastal Road by cars and jeepneys. The rate of increases would be double for buses and trucks, and triple for large trucks and trailers.

For the 30-km SLEX, the toll fee per kilometer would go up 4 centavos to 56 centavos per kilometer for class 1 vehicles like cars and jeeps; P1.12 per kilometer for class 2 vehicles such as light trucks and buses, and P1.68 per kilometer for class 3 or trailers and heavy trucks.

The SLEX is classified as a closed highway where the rates are determined per kilometer traveled. The Skyway and the Coastal Road are open highways that impose a flat toll rate for each class of vehicle.

A FATHER and his daughter rest near a gasoline station in Gagalangin Tondo, Manila. The National Statistics Office reported that the sharp rise in the cost of electricity and fuel pushed inflation in November to its five-year high of 7.6 percent. REM ZAMORA

RP growth to slow down to 5.8% in '05

By Michelle V. Remo

THE EXPECTED slowdown in the global economy and domestic pressures are likely to slow down the country's economic growth next year to a high of 5.8 percent.

The government's GDP growth target for 2005 was placed at a range of 6 percent to 6.2 percent.

This was the prediction made by economists from the University of Asia and the Pacific who said that the growth in the gross domestic product next year would not be at the same pace as this year, due to the slow progress of economic programs.

According to Bernardo Villegas, UA&P economist and senior vice president, the slowdown in the global economy will pull down, although not drastically, the country's electronics exports.

Electronics, which is targeted to grow by 10 percent this year, is the biggest dollar earner among local industries and the main driver of export growth.

Economist Roberto de Vera partly attributed the likely decline in global economic output next year to China's move to deliberately cool down its economic growth to temper high inflation.

De Vera said the decline in global demand would keep the Philippine from achieving the 6-6.2-percent GDP growth expected this year.

Villegas also doubted the ability of the government to achieve its economic growth target under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP).

The plan targets a 7 percent GDP growth in the medium term.

"It is too ambitious. The target is good, but do we have the machinery to achieve them?" said Villegas during the briefing.

He said one proof that the government would not achieve higher growth in the medium term is its failure to undertake the key infrastructure projects that have long been promised.

These include the repair of the Alabang viaduct, the 5-kilometer extension of the South Luzon Expressway from Calamba to Batangas and the operation of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) 3.

The economists, thus, urged the Arroyo administration to show political will in pushing for its revenue-raising measures to solve the fiscal problem.

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LIFESTYLE Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY
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The possible dream 3

AFTER 33 years of working that brought him all over the world, Chef Ernie Babaran is home and sharing what he knows with those who dream of being on top of the Pastry and Bakery Arts.

At the International School for Culinary Arts & Hotel Management (ISCAHM), over dessert, he shared his tale—how he began and came to be one of the most respected pastry chefs in the country.

Is the dream of being a chef possible with limited funds?

Yes!

What made you decide to be a chef?

Nag-umpisa parang hobby. *Tapos nag-tuloy tuloy na.*

How did you start?

I started in the province—*gumagawa ako ng pilipit,* fritters at *donuts.* When I came to Manila, I got a job at the Merced Bakeshop and started as steward (then) I became assistant baker. *Tapos sa* Bake-In. *Mula doon, lumipat ako sa* Rustan's La Fontanella, then Manila Garden, Philippine Plaza, Intercon *at noong* 1979, I went to Dubai International Hotel *kung saan ako ay* pastry chef na. *Lumipat ako muli mula* Dubai *sa* Macau Mandarin then *sa* Fiji, then Shangri-La *tapos sa* Mandarin Oriental Manila.

At present, I am assistant director for Pastry and Bakery Arts at the ISCAHM, a school put up and run by chef Norbert Gandler.

What advice will you give to those who want to pursue this career?

Be patient. With pastry, *dapat may pasensya ka.* Recipes are important, too. They are the basis for everything, *dapat laging eksakto. Kaunting mali, nagkaka-diperensya ang kinalalabasan. Mag-aral kayo, kasi sobra nang* competitive. *Kung hindi naman, mag tiyagang mag-*apprentice. *Huwag mamili ng trabaho.*

To whom do you owe your success?

Kay Zoilo Cabrera, *ang ninong ko. Mula sa* Merced Bakeshop *sinubaybayan at inalalayan niya ako. Kay* chef Joseph Paier and, of course, chef Norbert Gandler. *Naiiba si* Chef Gandler. He is an artist and he motivates you.

To what do you owe your success?

Patience, *tiyaga*

Final words:

Pag may pinasok kayo, panindigan ninyo!

A frequently requested recipe from Kitchen Rescue is fruit cake to sell during the holidays. Admittedly, I have a number of good ones but feel quite insecure about them.

To begin with, I am no fruit cake fan. Yes, I've baked them time and again since I was seven and they're quite good. But fruit cake, being the number one most recycled gift in the world, doesn't help much as a personal confidence booster. And for the life of me, I wouldn't like anything cooked or baked using my recipe to find its way to the third cousin of the friend of my *tita's* officemate who received it from the niece of her ex-boyfriend who got it from his mom's secretary who happened to be her *kumare.* And the fruit cake was originally given to his *lola* by her neighbor's fiancé, two years ago!!!

So I took the liberty of asking chef Babaran to share his recipe with us, hoping that somewhere along the gift-giving season, the tradition of recycling fruit cakes will come to a halt!

Fruit/Christmas Cake

375 g butter
125 g shortening
500 g dark brown sugar
180 g honey
590 g eggs
30 g glycerin
30 g caramel sugar or molasses
590 g cake flour
90 g slivered almonds, roasted
7 g baking powder
935 g currants, dried
875 g sultanas
375 g candied cherries
350 g mixed citrus peel
100 ml rum or brandy for marinating
1 gr cloves
3 gr cinnamon powder
3 gr all-spice
1 lemon juice and zest
1 orange juice and zest

* Sources of ingredients are Santis Deli, Chocolate Lover's, Chef's Nook and/or Killion. Please call PLDT for contact address and contact numbers, okay!

- Grease the molds.
- Preheat the oven to 300F/149C.
- Marinate the dried fruits in rum or brandy.
- Cream the butter, shortening, honey and sugar until pale in color; add eggs one at a time.
- Scraping the side and the bottom of the bowl, add glycerin, caramel sugar and the zest.
- Sift flour and the rest of the dry ingredients and mix into the batter.
- Add the marinated fruits and nuts.
- Put in mold and decorate with red cherries and nuts.
- Bake in the oven for 1 hour, depending on size and weight of the cake or until golden brown in color.
- Take out of the oven. Brush with brandy or rum syrup.
- When cold, wrap with aluminum foil.

Some of my favorite things and other useful information for the holidays:

- Ginny Abela, Lemon Torte, 8525341, 0917-8472549
- St. Clements Kitchens Chocolate Chip Bars and Fudgy Bonbons, 4264076, 4362850, 0918-9157984
- Fruits and Christmas scented candles

THE POSSIBLE/ C3

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

CHEF Ernie Babaran supervises his students as they make ISCAHM's Ginger Bread House.

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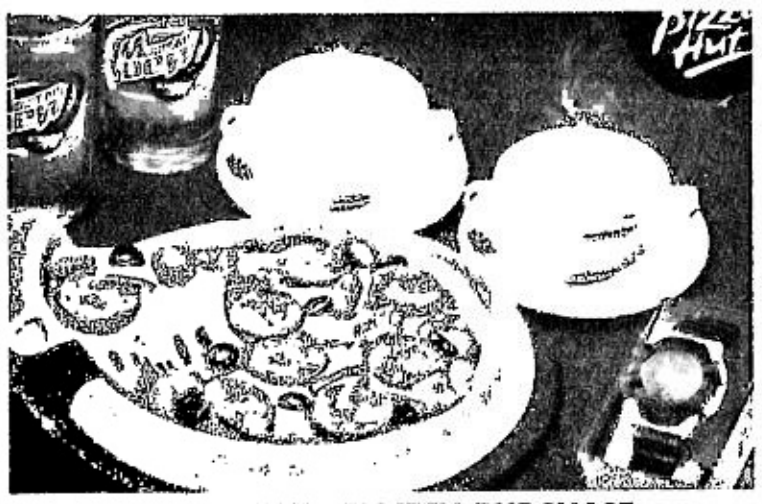

FREE WRISTWATCH WITH PIZZA PURCHASE

PIZZA Hut offers Holiday Picks Christmas promo. Get a free wristwatch for every purchase of the Holiday Picks bundle. Dine-in Feast for Two includes one regular Holiday Picks Cream Cheese Stuffed Crust Pizza, two orders cream of mushroom soup and two glasses of Mountain Dew Code Red for P349. Dine-in Feast for Four covers one family Holiday Picks Cream Cheese Stuffed Crust Pizza, two orders of spaghetti with meat sauce and four glasses of Mountain Dew Code Red for P539. Christmas Feast bundle is also available for take out and delivery. Holiday Picks offers two holiday pizza flavors for the holidays—Chicken Relleno and Holiday Feast. The offer is available until Jan. 10. Call 9111111.

Resto freebies for credit card holders

CITIBANK is serving culinary freebies in select restaurants to its primary and supplementary credit cardholders.

Citibank credit cardholders can use special Gerry's Grill discount vouchers to get free food or beverage items. If they use their Citibank Credit Cards to pay, they get a free Leche Flan or Iced Tea for a minimum purchase of P250, free Baked Mussels or Tuna Sisig for a minimum P500 purchase, free Beef Casserole or Beef Salpicado for a minimum purchase of P1,000 and free Crispy Pata for a minimum purchase of P1,500.

Cardholders can also enjoy free Sizzling Sisig when they order Gerry's Steak and any chicken dish or a free bucket of Ultra Light beer plus one free dish of Crispy Crablets, Calamares, or Kuhol when they buy a bucket of Ultra Light beer. Offer good until Dec. 15.

At the Macau Restaurant in Eastwood City, Libis, cardholders can get a free bottomless glass of Iced Tea or Lemonade for a whole group when a Citibank Credit Card is used to pay for the meal. Offer runs until year-end.

The Steak Factory in Ortigas gives one free Choco Pie a la mode dessert for a minimum purchase of P500 when a Citibank Credit Card is used. Offer good until year-end.

At Melo's Home of Certified Angus in Greenbelt 1 and Quezon City, Citibank cardholders get one free appetizer for three or more diners by using their cards until Dec. 31. They can choose from Pâté, Chicken Quesadilla or Five-Layer Nachos.

Call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 9959999 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

Tips for worry-free celebration

MONTEREY, the company that pioneered the neighborhood meatshop concept in the country, offers some tips for worry-free, Christmas home cooking.

Easy menu-planning. Ask family members to assist you in planning the Noche Buena dinner, getting their suggestions for possible party themes, among others. A singular motif will make it easier to plan recipes, activities and decorations.

For the menu, you may want to go for "something old, something new" like *morcon* and *lengua* as well as spaghetti with meatballs and barbecue steak. Have a meat lover's Christmas dinner with, among others, *lechon kawali*, *pochero* and *bulalo*. Or go for a Pinoy-style lauriat with *lumpiang shanghai*, *pancit molo*, *siomai* and *quikiam*.

For more menu ideas, visit a Monterey neighborhood meatshop and see its extensive array of pork and beef cuts for a wide variety of dishes.

No-fuss preparation. Don't hesitate to delegate! Assign family members different chores like marketing, food preparation and cooking. This will ensure efficiency in the kitchen and is also a good opportunity to teach culinary skills to amateur cooks in the family.

Buy your meat needs at Monterey where you can have lean, fresh-chilled pork and beef cuts anytime of day. Soon Monterey neighborhood meatshops all over the country will be transformed into one-stop, convenience stores that offer not just meats but also vegetables and other ingredients.

Relatives and friends abroad can also show their love and esteem by sending loved ones here flavorful fresh pre-cut or pre-marinated Monterey meats and ready-to-eat meals through myAyala.com.

The online grocery facility allows Filipinos in North America and the Middle East to purchase Monterey products for delivery to relatives and friends in Metro Manila.

Minimum order is P1,300.

So have a merry and safe Christmas celebration by buying your fresh meat from a reliable source like Monterey. Visit a Monterey neighborhood meatshop nearest you.

CHEF Ernie

The possible dream 3

From page C1

in all shapes, colors and sizes for your Christmas dinner and buffet tables, 0917-8990306/0917-8222122

- Food orders for the holiday season—simple and delicious home cooking, Offie Benavidez of O's Kitchen, 0917-8150822; Boots Salas, 0916-5265284; Joel Vilches, 0917-5414880; Ditas Lumpiang Hubad, 6330205
- Roasted Lamb on a Spit–2790556/0920-2090330
- Ready-to-cook corned beef, steaks and roasted Australian calf (prime beef), JR & Vinia Camacho, 9265647, 0918-9104913
- Baked Virginia Ham and giant chicharon, The Plaza, Myrna, 7182211
- Ensaimada, Mrs. Cunanan, 6310798
- Beautifully packaged food and wine baskets, Girlie Canoy, 6471316/6471366

For questions and comments text 0917-8399888

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Santa's Town is coming to Hong Kong this year and Santa wants you to join him for a special house-warming from 26 November 2004 to 2 January 2005. You're invited to a joyous celebration when Santa turns Central, a world-renowned business district, into a festive Santa's Town. You'll find endless enjoyment at the Snowy Chapel, Santa's Lodge, Santa's Workshop, Giant Music Box, and of course, the Dazzling Christmas Tree. Take a stroll down the romantic Mistletoe Boulevard and don't forget to make a wish in Santa's Town.

What's more, stunning decorations and Christmas lighting will enhance the magnificent harbour view along the glorious skyline. And with the Hong Kong WinterFest Passport to Amazing Offers, your holiday will be packed with incredible bonuses at great stores and restaurants accredited by the *Quality Tourism Services Scheme*.

So enjoy this heart-warming season and avail of Cathay Pacific's "Visit Hong Kong Now - HK WinterFest Package" which includes:

- Roundtrip Economy Class air ticket on Cathay Pacific
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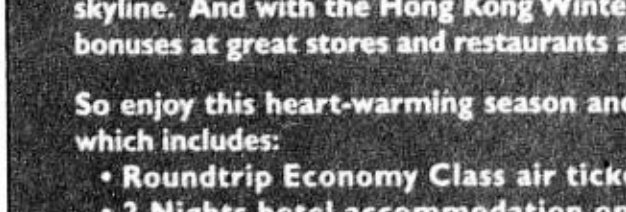

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A jewel of a dinner on Dec. 11

TAGAYTAY Highlands teams up with Rustan's to present "Dinner and Jewels", a show of food and jewelry, Dec. 11-12.

The affair combines a private viewing of Rustan's jewelry collection and *degustacion* dinner at La Belle Brasserie.

Annabelle Ong, director for marketing and membership services, said the event is being held following the success of last year's private viewing of Rustan's exclusive jewelry and timepiece collections.

Exclusive discounts will be given to members of Tagaytay Highlands. The Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art will also raffle off museum pieces to the *degustacion* dinner patrons.

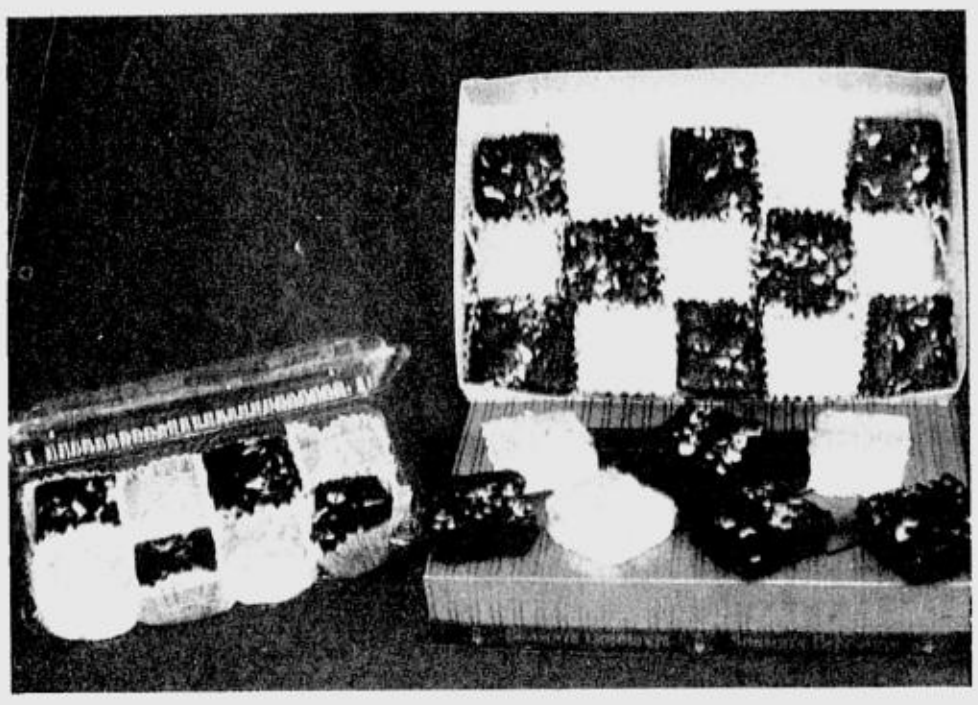
TAGAYTAY Highlands' chef See Cheong Yan will weave gastronomical magic at "Dinner and Jewels."

At 6-10 p.m.,Dec. 11, Highlands' Malaysian-born executive chef, See Cheong Yan, will prepare a special selection of recipes for a sumptuous Degustacion Dinner.

Menu will include Alsatian Seared Duck Breast with *foie gras*, Edamane Puree with Broiled Miso Chilean Seabass and Japanese Morokyu, Roast Rack of Lamb of garlic with Provence herbs topped with amaretto mascarpone cream with mixed berries for dessert.

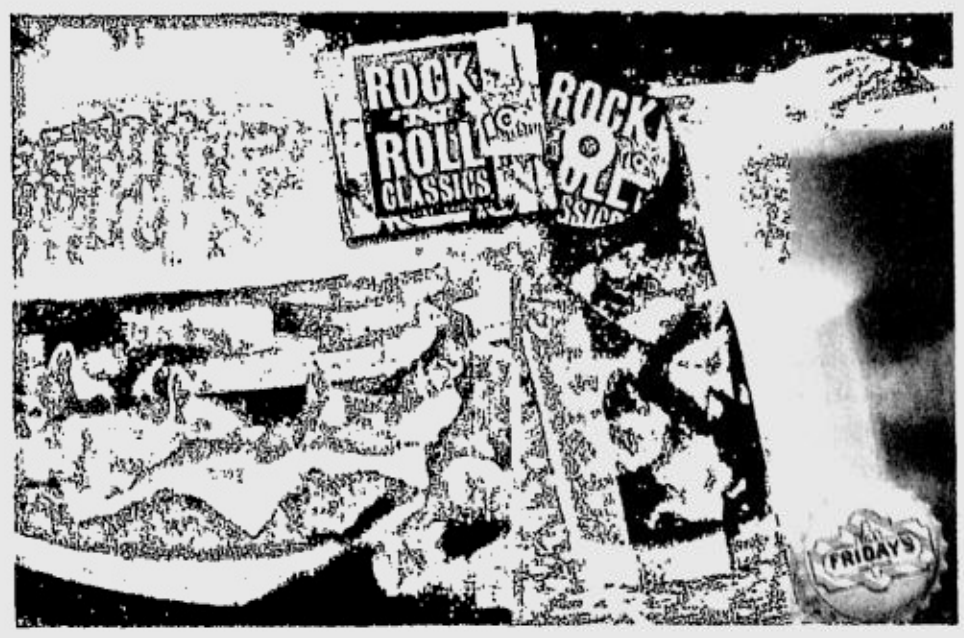
The exclusive dinner is open only to 40 patrons.

Call (046) 4130820, 4132033. For membership and related information, call 6872885.



HOLIDAY PASTRIES

Brownies and caramel cakes as gifts this Christmas? Why not! Levs and Denz Pastries offers these treats at A. Mabini St., San Roque, Marikina City. The special holiday packages come in four sizes: P45 for an eight-piece pack, P65 for 12, P80 for 15 and P220 for 48. Call 4572454, 0916-4158911 and 0927-8148701.



Promo rolls out classic hits

T.G.I.Friday's is celebrating its 10th year in the Philippines this December and it rolls out Rock 'N Roll Classic items to mark a decade of great food and fun.

Start off with Loaded Cheese Fries, crispy French fries smothered in melted Colby and Monterey Jack cheeses, bacon bits and green onions, then team them up with a thick beefy burger. The new Jack Daniel's Burger is ground beef char-grilled to perfection, topped with Friday's original Jack Daniel glaze, Cajun onion rings, melted Colby cheese and served with a side of onion rings and Jack Daniel's Glaze.

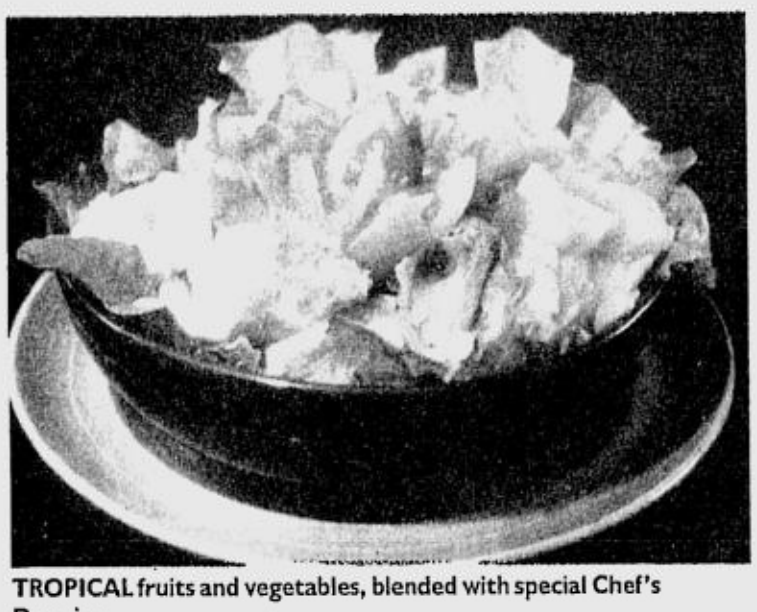
The golden brown Country Chicken Fried Chicken, served with hearty country gravy, cheddar cheese, mashed potatoes and grilled corn cobs, will surely get everyone rockin' and rollin'.

Surf & Turf features a thick, juicy char-grilled New York strip steak, along with savory Jack Daniel's shrimp and served with baked potato and Jack Daniel's Glaze.

A '60s drive-in wouldn't be complete without the famous soda and fountain drinks, thus Friday's is ushering back in a modern-day classic with Coke Ice Cream Float and Cherry or Vanilla Coke.

In addition, a rich chocolaty cake, topped with a big scoop of ice cream, cherry marshmallow sauce and chocolate syrup called Cherry Coca-Cola Cake is the ultimate dessert.

An exclusive T.G.I.Friday's Rock 'N Roll Classic CD—a choice between hits from the rock 'n roll era or choicest hits from 1994 to 2004—will be given away for free for every order of Surf and Turf or any two dishes from Rock 'N Roll Classic items until Jan. 15, 2005 or until supply lasts. T.G.I.Friday's branches are located in Glorietta 3, Robinson's Manila, Hotel Rembrandt, Quezon City, Sta. Lucia East and Alabang Town Center.



TROPICAL fruits and vegetables, blended with special Chef's Dressing

Guilt-free dining

CAFÉ Nuevé, a health food establishment, has opened at the G/F of The Tony Galvez Centrum, 9th Avenue cor. P. Tuazon Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City.

Each item on the menu has been carefully evaluated by a nutritionist and comes with complete nutritional information.

Jeff Edward Galvez, owner and operator of Café Nuevé, says he wants to educate Filipinos on healthy dining. As too much sugar, fats and salt are bad for the health, the restaurant serves low-sodium, low-fat and low-sugar dishes.

At Café Nuevé, you can eat as much as you want without feeling guilty.

Diners can start with the Tropical Fruits and Vegetables Salad, a crunchy blend of fruits and fresh vegetables. Pasta lovers can choose from Tuna with Tomato Sauce, Pesto, Anchovies with Parsley Sauce, and Chicken with White Mushroom Sauce, among others.

Café Nuevé offers a wide selection of sandwiches. Main dishes (fish and chicken) are served with grilled vegetables and brown rice.

Galvez says the restaurant does not serve pork or lean meat, just chicken. It also serves brown rice because it's healthier than white.

TUNA and onion sandwich

Catering management workshop Dec. 13-21

THE MB&G/ProActive is conducting the Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop 1-5 p.m., Dec. 13-21, at Ipanema Bar & Restaurant, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

Reservations are currently being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at 6871787 or (0915)4315375. Only 20 participants will be accepted.

Seminar fee is P5,000 per participant, inclusive of manual and handouts, workshop materials and equipment, snacks, and certificate of completion.

The seven-day training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements; planning the menu, equipment and staffing; cost control; room arrangements, among others. MB&G/ProActive has been in the business of training food service executives and hospitality business owners since 1989.

Slow-acting bureaucracy puts consumers at risk

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

VIC del Fierro Jr., president of the organization called Coalition for Consumer Protection and Welfare, has one complaint about consumer welfare in the country that he airs in his various speaking engagements here and abroad.

"The long [bureaucratic] process is enough to bleed consumers dry financially when they try to seek redress," he pointed out.

He filed a complaint with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) early in November about the staple wire inside a popular brand of sardines, and guess what? As of this writing, his complaint is still gathering dust in some office in the Department of Health.

Here's the letter of Del Fierro:

"In fairness to DTI, the consumer affairs desk responded promptly to my complaint and, on the first week of November, endorsed the case to the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD). I have been following it up since then, tracing its path from DTI to BFAD. Finally, I was informed on Nov. 30 that the case would have to be endorsed (again!) to the Department of Health."

Del Fierro has lost track of his complaint after being told last week that the legal department of BFAD was still preparing the formal endorsement to DOH.

"It's a long and tedious process that discourages Filipino consumers from pressing on [with their complaint to get] action. Instead of finding protection from the government, consumers here are being penalized for complaining," he said.

DOH assurance needed

Eighty-one-year-old Nenita U. Socrates wants a published assurance from Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit that it is safe to take Amargozin, an *ampalaya*-based food supplement.

A diabetic for 25 years now, she suffers as well from high blood pressure, cardiac problems and osteoarthritis. In her letter, she admitted that she did not consult her doctor when she started taking three pills of Amargozin a day in addition to the prescribed oral pills. When her doctor learned about it, she was advised to stop taking the *ampalaya* food supplement immediately because he said it was loaded with vitamin K, which was not compatible with her medication. Her doctor also warned that the food supplement posed risk to those with a history of prostate problems in the family. Her husband died from this kind of cancer.

"Since many, like me, are buying Amargozin [over the counter]... thinking it is safe and only a vegetable, I pray Secretary Dayrit that you will enlighten [us] by having your answer printed in the newspapers as a public service. Moreover, I believe manufacturers should indicate the complete list of ingredients on the label of this supplement."

While we're still waiting for the response of Secretary Dayrit, here's a reaction from Dr. Eliseo T. Banaynal, the medical director of Altermed Corp., distributor of Amargozin:

"*Ampalaya* is a wonder vegetable with widely known health benefits. Ongoing studies conducted by the National Integrated Research Program on Medicinal Plants, a research group commissioned by the Philippine Council of Health Research and Development [an agency of the Department of Science and Technology], confirmed that *ampalaya* [the Makiling variety used in Amargozin] significantly and statistically lowered high blood sugar level among Type 2 diabetics.

"The researchers also indicated the presence of substantial amounts of vitamin K in *ampalaya*. Normal levels of this vitamin hastens the healing of wound, but excessive amount in the blood can cause abnormal bleeding [as well as aggravate the condition of malfunctioning livers]. There are three kinds of Vitamin K. Fortunately, Amargozin contains the third kind that is destroyed when heated at 30°+ C. We hope this information bulletin will allay the fears of both health professionals and their patients."

For more information on the product, call Jerry Co of Altermed at 9258468 or 0917-5372094.

Cooking for a Filipino Christmas party

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is offering the following classes:

Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m.—My Filipino Christmas '04!—Lumpia Platter: Lechon and Duck Confit with Dipping Sauces, Pako Salad; Corned Beef Sinigang with Asian Greens, French Duck and Pork Adobo with Coconut Risotto, Wasabi Cream and Native Cherry Tomato Jam, Bagnet Carved On the Spot with Fruit and Vegetable Sauces, Pinakbet Paella, Maja Blanca Panna Cotta with Pandan Corn and Orchid Truffle Oil

Dec. 10—Entertaining with Friends (all-new, highly recommended): Baked Cheese with Crab Filling, Cold Cantaloupe Soup with Prosciutto Crisps, The Most Delicious Ever Garlic Pot Roast with Pilaf, Roast Duck with Delicious Apricot Sauce, Profiteroles with Truffle Sauce

Dec. 11—My Christmas Favorites (all-new): Duet of Pomodoro and Squash Sou; Foie Gras Spring Rolls with Mixed Berry Dipping Sauce; Honey Chicken with Foie Gras Rice; Salmon with Tamarind Glaze; Smoked Salmon Spring Rolls and Oriental Pilaf; Grilled Steaks with Bernaise and Vanilla Risotto; Steaks with Blue Cheese, Foie Gras and Roasted Fruit with Boursin Baked Potatoes; Cold Grand Marnier Souffle.

For the Christmas season, raw and cooked US meats are available—beef, lamb, turkey, ox tongue. Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162 or 0917-8399888 for a customized holiday gourmet menu.

CHEF Murlidhar Khulbay

New chef introduces more Indian seafood dishes

PRINCE of Jaipur introduces new executive chef Murlidhar Khulbay from the five-star Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi.

Khulbay, who is also from New Delhi, has more than 30 years experience as chef in Japan, Oman, Germany, Malaysia, Cyprus and India. He has served royalties and other famous personalities.

The chef's expertise includes black *dhal*, *tandoori*, seafoods and Indian curries. He favors North Indian food and personally likes lobster, prawns and crabs. He wants to introduce many dishes using lobster, prawns and crabs aside from chicken and lamb.

Prince of Jaipur is at Unit E, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 8841692, e-mail prince_of_jaipur@hotmail.com or visit www.princeofjaipur.com.

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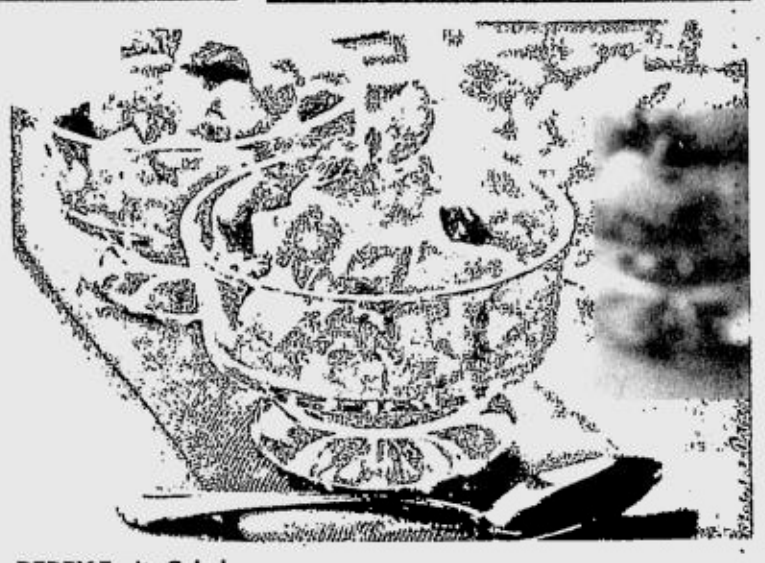
LEMON Herb Roast Chicken with Baby Potatoes



BERRY Fruity Salad

Holiday meal in a jiffy

AS Christmas approaches, your halls may be decked with boughs of holly and your tree is trimmed with tinsel, but do you already have an idea what to serve on your Noche Buena? No need to stress out on your holiday menu. Achieve maximum flavor at minimum effort with San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center's delicious recipes using ingredients right out of the can and freezer.

Warm up the appetites of your family and friends with Luncheon Meat Crispy Bites. Dazzle the holiday table with Magnolia's pre-marinated Ready-to-Roast Lemon Herb Chicken with a siding of baked potatoes and Chicken Cordon Bleu with Duo Mushroom Sauce.

Cap off the Noche Buena with Berry Fruity Salad.

Luncheon Meat Crispy Bites

1 (210 g) can Purefoods Luncheon Meat, chopped
½ cup chopped cucumbers
½ cup chopped tomatoes
½ cup chopped white onions
¼ cup Purefoods Supremo Vinegar
2 tbsp white sugar
2 tbsp water
pinch of ground black pepper
potato chips/nachos
ranch dressing, store-bought (optional)

In a bowl, combine Purefoods Luncheon Meat, cucumbers, tomatoes and onions. Set aside. In another bowl, mix vinegar, sugar, water and pepper. Pour into cucumber mixture. Toss. Just prior to serving, top on chips or crackers. Garnish with parsley or drizzle with ranch dressing.

Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Berry Fruity Salad

1 (850 g) can fruit salad, drained
½ c all purpose cream
½ c Magnolia Cream Cheese Spread Strawberry Flavored
1 tbsp powdered sugar

Place all ingredients in a bowl. Mix well. Chill for at least 2 hours. Serve cold.

Makes 8 servings.

HOLIDAY/D3

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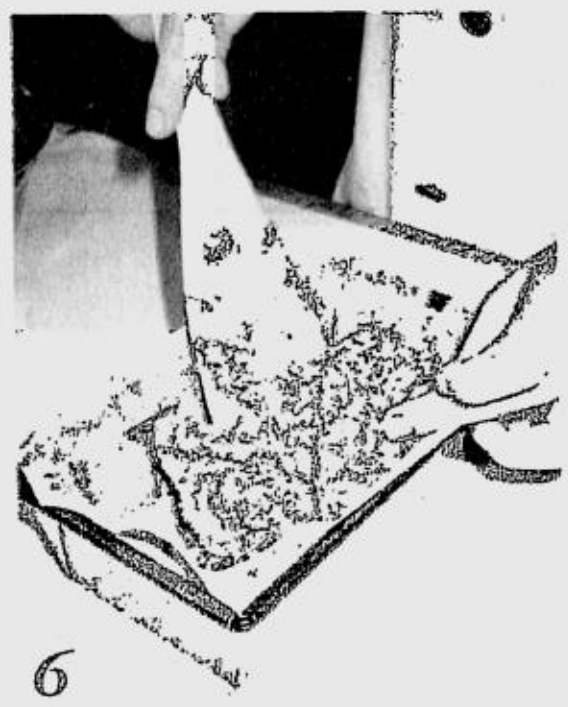
Per DTI Permit No. 4844, Series of 2004.

FOLD in the flaps and line the loaf pan, pressing gently on the side to adhere. Set aside.

TAKE a large bowl and combine the ground pork and beef.

ADD the onions, garlic, soy sauce, eggs, Worcestershire sauce and breadcrumbs. Mix well. Season with salt and pepper. (Before cooking, test for proper seasoning: Heat some oil in a frying pan and cook a small amount of the meat mixture. Taste and re-season if needed.)

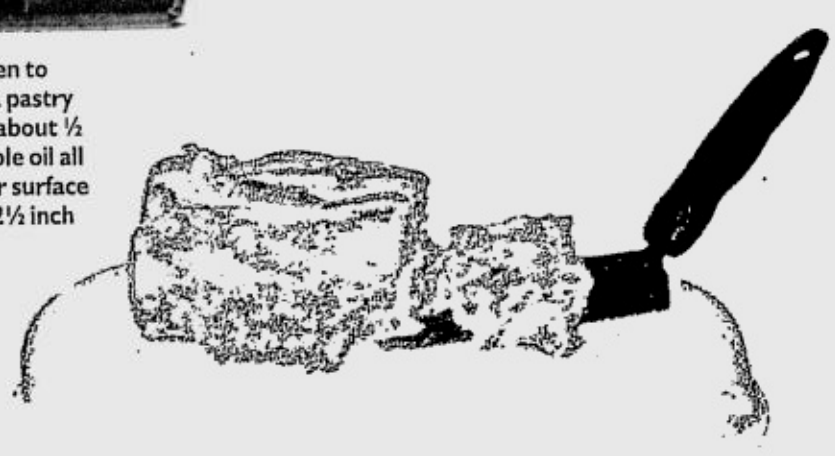


FILL the loaf pan with half of the meat mixture.

An easy recipe for a merry Christmas spread

ROLL out a sheet of Glad Bake, about 9-inch in length. Using the loaf pan as a guide, make a 2 ½ inch slit on the open end of the Glad Bake. The sheet makes the loaf easier to remove from the pan and cut.

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Using a pastry brush, brush about ½ tsp of vegetable oil all over the inner surface of a 9 x 4½ x 2½ inch loaf pan.



CHRISTMAS Hearty Meatloaf

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

CHRISTMAS is about families getting together for what many people consider the most important occasion of the year.

Generally, a major concern for the host of the gathering is what to put on the holiday table. Well, the aroma of a meatloaf cooking in the oven should help guests look forward with anticipation to the meal ahead.

But there are as many versions of meatloaf as there are cooks. About all they have in common is the pan. Meatloaves can be made from different ground meat, including game, poultry or shellfish.

STEP BY STEP

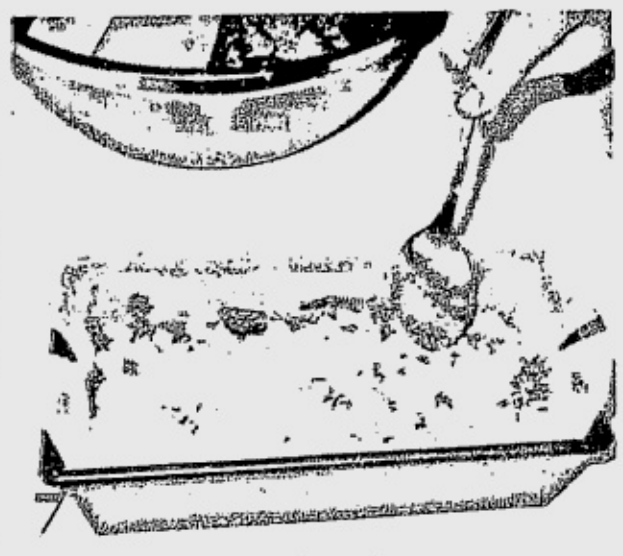
Here's one basic recipe for a moist, delicious meatloaf using part ground beef and part ground pork.

Although some put tomato sauce or ketchup on top, chef Pria Chiongbian Solon prefers a couple strips of bacon as topping.

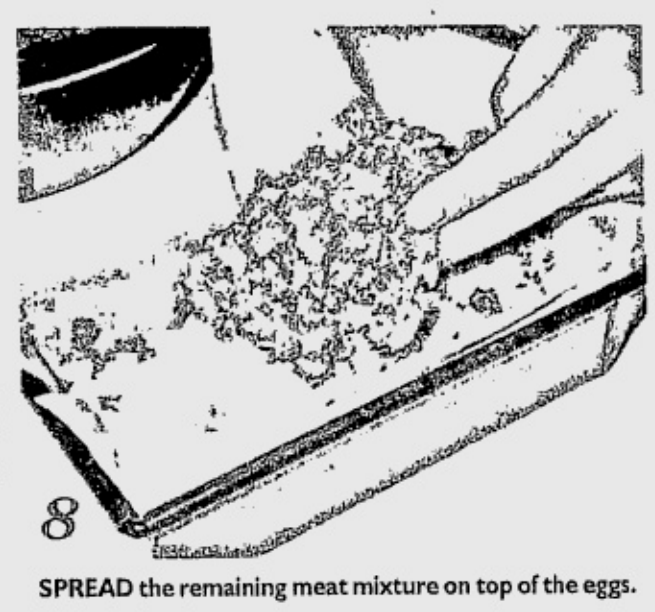
"The bacon gives added crispiness, flavor and elegance to your holiday meatloaf," says Solon, who runs, along with partner-chefs Ana Parks and Melanie Cruz, Cooking Basics Culinary Studio, a cooking center that offers hands-on recreational cooking classes (tel. 7710082).

To give the dish a different texture and color, Solon also adds chopped hard-boiled eggs in between the two layers of meatloaf. Seasonings include Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, tomato catsup, garlic, onions, salt and pepper. Eggs and breadcrumbs are usually used to hold or bind the piece together.

"Just throw all the ingredients into a big bowl and mix thoroughly. But this must be done by squishing the mixture with your clean fingers or it won't hold together properly," says Solon.



SPREAD chopped eggs to form a layer on top.



SPREAD the remaining meat mixture on top of the eggs.

> The meatloaf will not only be a happy addition to the holiday table but leftovers make good sandwich filling

Bake until the loaf is firm and the top is browned and crisp, about an hour. Prevent meatloaf from sticking by coating the pan lightly with vegetable oil. This also speeds up cleaning afterwards.

Once the meatloaf mixture has been placed in the pan, press down on it firmly with your hands or the back of a large spoon to level the surface and compress the mixture.

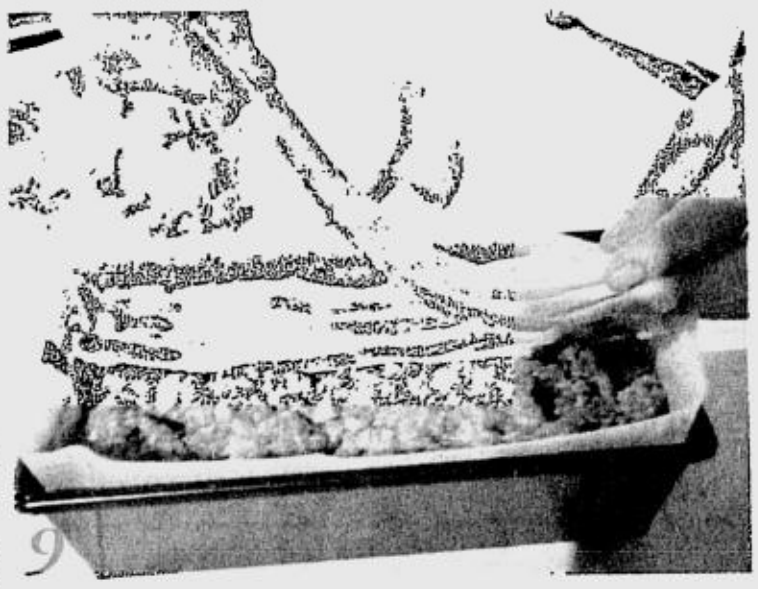
After removing the meatloaf from the oven, remember to let it stand on the counter for at least 10 minutes before slicing and serving. If you're planning to have leftovers for cold meatloaf sandwiches, slice only the amount you will need for dinner.

For uniform sandwich slices that won't fall apart, refrigerate leftover meatloaf and slice cold.

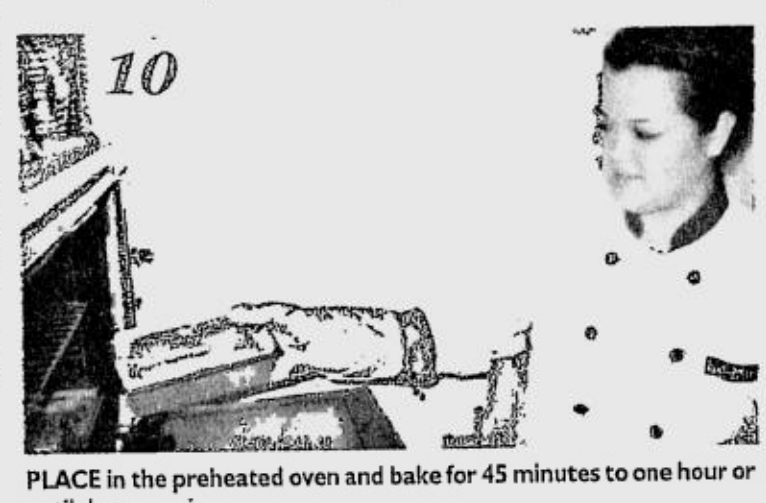
Ingredients

¼ c tomato catsup
2 tbsp chili paste
500 g ground beef
500 g ground pork
2 onions, chopped
2 tbsp garlic, minced
2 tbsp soy sauce
2 eggs
3 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
1 c Japanese breadcrumbs
salt and pepper to taste
6 strips bacon
2 hard boiled eggs, chopped
½ tsp vegetable oil for greasing pan

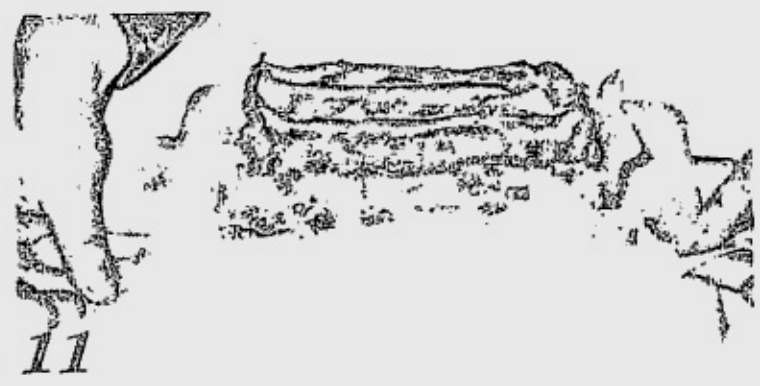
For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



ARRANGE and top with bacon strips.



PLACE in the preheated oven and bake for 45 minutes to one hour or until done.



REMOVE from pan. Let cool and slice.

Magazine for baking enthusiasts launched

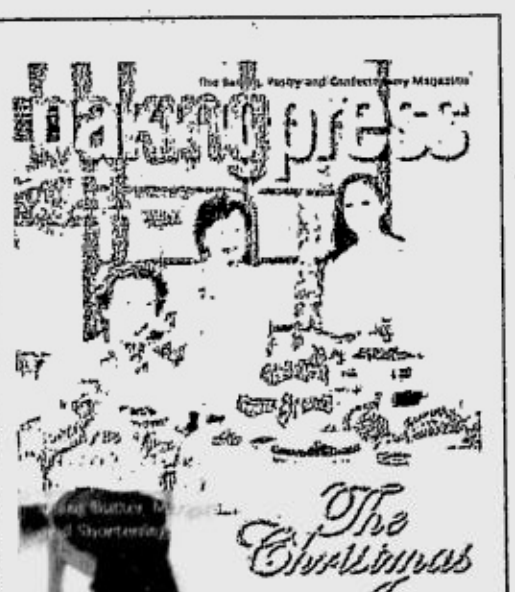
BAKING Press, the country's first and only baking, pastry and confectionery trade magazine, was officially launched recently at the Bizu Patisserie, Greenbelt 2, Makati City.

Guests were treated to wine and desserts. They included contributing writers Johnlu Koa of French Baker, dessert expert Heny Sison, Pastry Bin's Penk Ching, and chef Dennis Hipolito of Joconde Cakes and Pastries.

With Anne Marie Ozueta as editor in chief, Baking Press aims to provide managers and owners of bakeshop chains, stand-alone bakeshops, restaurants, hotels and resorts, pastry chefs, caterers, and baking and pastry students with relevant information, technical know-how, tips and latest trends in the baking industry.

Baking Press is published quarterly by Angels Publishing House Inc. It is available in leading bookstores and magazine stands.

Call telefax 7242688.



Read for some culinary inspiration

FOR SOME culinary inspiration for your holiday, get the latest issue of Flavors Magazine.

Chef Jill Sandique of the Heny Sison Cooking School whips up seven chocolate concoctions that you can serve as desserts for your Christmas parties: Molten Chocolate Cake with Orange Ricotta Cream, Chocolate Hazelnut Praline Tree, Chocolate Soufflé, Boston Creme Pie, Marble Pound Cake, Agasojo and Mary Jo's Chocolate Macadamia Sans Rival.

Resident chef Eugene Raymundo, inspired by the pastries of Cafe Tyrol in Austria, has come up with his own Apple Walnut Pound Cake.

Pixie Sevilla-Santos, who prefers light and healthy meals, shares the recipes of her Banana Bread Pudding and Grilled Vegetable Lasagna.

Also featured is chef Giaochino Brambilla, guest chef of the exclusive Tower Club in Makati, who whips up meals using olive oil.

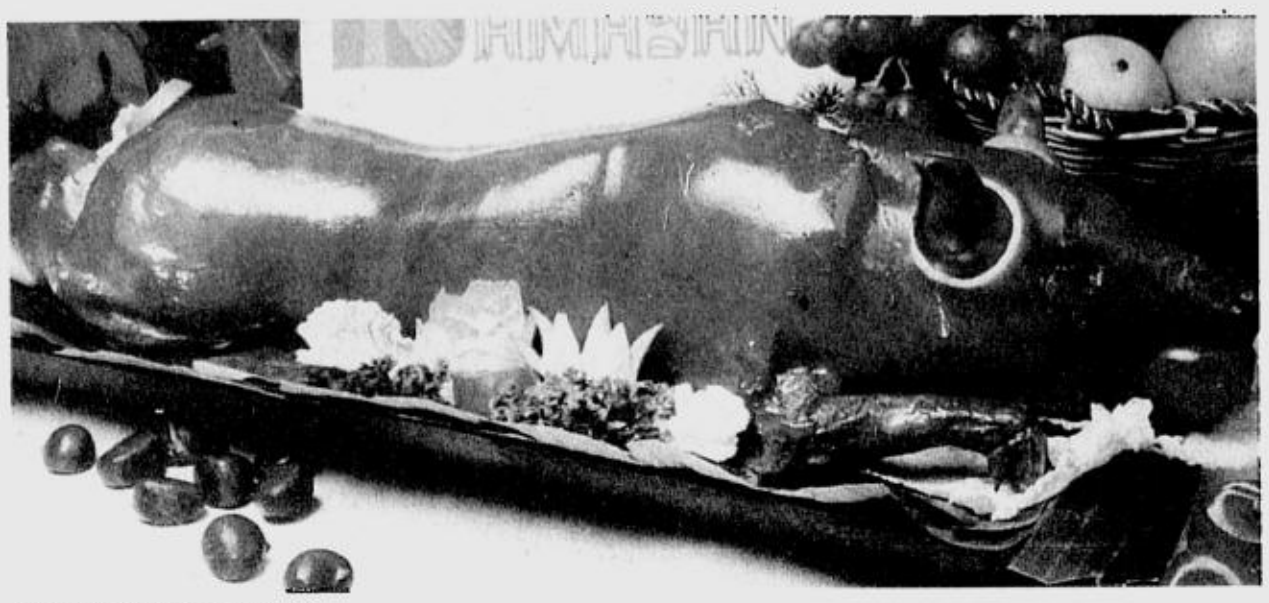
Flavors also carries celebration dishes from a recent cooking demonstration by San Miguel—Tender Cuts Marinated Ribs Surf 'n Turf, Pasta Bechamel with Cordon Bleu and Monterey Sisig Rice.

Also in this issue are Singaporean dishes featured in a local food festival and a culinary tour of Singapore. Readers can also learn the step-by-step procedure for making honey oatmeal soap.

Other features are tropical interior designs, a one-stop shop for home needs and the newest food products and food promos.

Flavors is a monthly publication of Tower Publishing Inc.

Call 7523551 to 53, 56 or 57 or e-mail flavorsmagazine@hotmail.com.



KAMAYAN Lechon de leche

Celebrate with the 'three kings' of buffet

SPARE yourself the hassle of cooking at home for holiday get-togethers.

Have the three-in-one Dads Ultimate Buffet featuring Dads, Kamayan, and Saisaki.

At Dads, you can have, among others, Dads Ham, a cured leg of ham baked with caramelized sugar and pineapple; Roast Beef, a prime cut of rib-eye seasoned with crushed black pepper topped with slices of onion, carrots, celery leaves and garlic, then roasted to order; and Roast Turkey, an entire roasted holiday bird marinated in butter and white wine.

Side dishes include mixed seafood with shrimp, clams, squid, and mussels, among others; pasta dishes like macaroni and lasagna with a selection of sauces like Alfredo, Bechamel, Bologna, and Pesto; salads from Caesar to Waldorf; and Dads Paella, rice stewed in tomato sauce and topped with sautéed chicken and seafood.

For dessert, choose from a variety of fruits, cakes, and pastries, or try the Bouche de Noel, meringue filled with chocolate.

Kamayan buffet's Menu De Gallo features Filipino tradition of the Christmas feast to our buffet table with a spread of all-time Filipino favorites and special holiday treats.

Choose from three different kinds of *lechon*—the traditional *Lechon de Leche*, suckling pig roasted with aromatic spices till crisp; *Lechon Liempo*, pork belly marinated in a special sauce; and *Lechon Paella*, roast suckling pig stuffed with rice, *tocino, tinapa, longganisa*, and *tapa*.

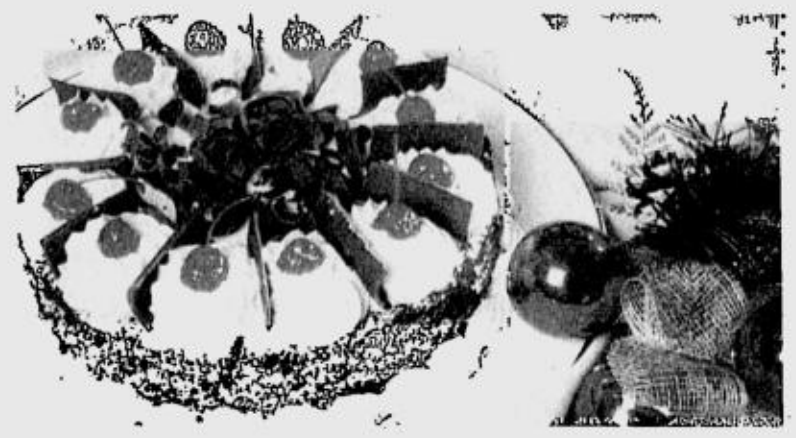
Other Filipino delicacies at Kamayan are *Kare-Kare*, Crispy Chicken, *Afritada, Laing, Pulutok, Pinakbet*, and seafood. Desserts include *Leche Flan, Ube*, and *Buko Pandan*. You can also make your own *Halo-Halo* or have Christmas staples, *Puto Bumbong* and *Bibingka*.

If you want something light, try Saisaki's Best Dishes. *Nabemono* are one-pot cooking specialties like Sukiyaki, *Ramen*, and *Zaru Chasoba*. You can have your fill of broiled *Yakimono* dishes such as *Niku Chiisu Maki*, cheese rolled in beef; *Kani Bacon Maki*, crabsticks rolled in bacon; *Butayaki*, pork spareribs; *Kajiki*, swordfish brushed with teriyaki sauce; *Yakitori*, skewered chicken fillet; *Shake*, salmon belly and jaw; and broiled tuna.

At the sushi bar, have a smorgasbord of *.maki, temaki* and other seafood. You can choose from mackerel, octopus, prawns, sea urchin, and shrimp roe, among others. Cap your meal with fresh tropical fruits or ice cream.

With Dads' Ultimate Buffet, you get value for money. At P495, you can also enjoy Kamayan and Saisaki buffets, in addition to Dads. On promo days, you can have the three-in-one buffet for only P395.

Call 5316101 or 5317292.



DAD's Black Forest

Christmas with Mediterranean touch

MAKE your Noche Buena a little different with these recipes using the finest flavors from the Pietro Coricelli family of Umbria and Doña Maria's bounty from Seville.

Pan Seared Pork Chops in Black Olive Tapenade Sauce

(serves 4-6)

1 kg pork chops (at least ½ inch thick)

3 tbsp Pietro Coricelli Pure Olive Oil

½ c of flour (for coating)

PAN Seared Pork Chops in Black Olive Topenade Sauce

salt and pepper to taste

For the sauce:

1 head garlic, minced

½ c Doña Maria Pitted Black Olives, chopped fine

1 tbsp Doña Maria Capers, chopped fine

3 fillets Doña Elena Flat Anchovies

2 tbsp Pietro Coricelli Pure Olive Oil

Garnish:

½ c basil, chopped

½ c grated parmesan cheese

1. Heat pan to medium high then add 3 tbsp olive oil. Season pork chops with salt and pepper.

2. Lightly coat the pork chops with flour and gently tap off excess. Fry in oil until golden brown.

3. For the sauce: In a separate pan, heat 2 tbsp of olive oil then put minced garlic and anchovies. Cook until golden brown.

4. Add capers and black olives.

5. Add sauce to the cooked pork chops.

6. Garnish with basil and parmesan cheese. Serve hot.

ROSEMARY and Garlic Chicken Confit

Rosemary and Garlic Chicken Confit

(serves 4-6)

1 whole chicken (around 1.2 kg), cut into 4-6 pieces

2 c Pietro Coricelli Pure Olive Oil, or enough to completely cover chicken pieces

Seasonings:

1 tbsp salt

1 tsp pepper

1 tbsp rosemary, chopped fine

1 bay leaf, crushed

1 head garlic, chopped

1. Mix all the seasonings. Rub seasonings into the chicken pieces. Add oil and marinate for 2 days in refrigerator.

2. Transfer chicken and oil marinade to a pot just big enough to immerse all the chicken pieces in the oil.

3. Gently heat the pot and simmer the chicken pieces for around 45 minutes or until meat is tender. Be careful not to heat the oil excessively to prevent deep-frying of chicken pieces.

4. To serve, broil the chicken— skin side up—until golden brown.

5. Serve with potato or rice dishes or as topping for pasta.

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See flyers for more details, or call:
631-8000 (within Metro Manila) or
1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll-free).

*Offer good until Feb. 15, 2005 only.

Also available

BD Credit Cards

Per DTI Permit No. 4844, Series of 2004.

Holiday meal in a jiffy

From page D1

Chicken Cordon Bleu With Duo Mushroom Sauce

1 pack Monterey Chicken Cordon Bleu

Magnolia Nutri Oil for frying

¼ c + 2 tbsp Magnolia Gold Butter

1 tsp minced garlic

1 pc small onion, chopped

50 g shiitake mushrooms, halved

100 g fresh oyster mushroom, halved

¼ c white wine

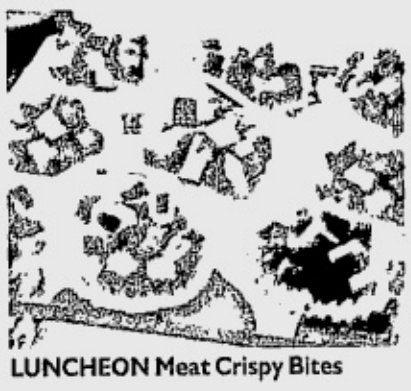
1 c all-purpose cream

¼ c chicken stock

salt and pepper to taste

Cook cordon bleu according to package directions. Set aside and keep warm.

To prepare sauce, melt ¼ cup butter in a saucepan. Saute garlic and onions, then add mushrooms. Cook for 2 minutes stirring occasionally. Remove mixture from pan and set aside. Using the same pan, add 2 tbsp. butter. Pour in white wine and let simmer until it reduces into half its original amount. Add cream and stock. Let simmer for 2 minutes. Add mushroom mixture. Mix well. Season with salt and pepper to taste.



LUNCHEON Meat Crispy Bites

To serve, arrange sliced cordon bleu on a platter. Pour sauce on top.

Makes 3 servings.

Magnolia Lemon-herb Roast Chicken With

Baby Potatoes

1 whole Magnolia Ready to Roast Lemon Herb Chicken

Potatoes:

1 kilo marble potatoes, skin-on

3½ tbsp. Magnolia Gold Butter

1 head garlic, peeled

1 tbsp. olive oil

1 tbsp. paprika

1½ tbsp. Italian seasoning

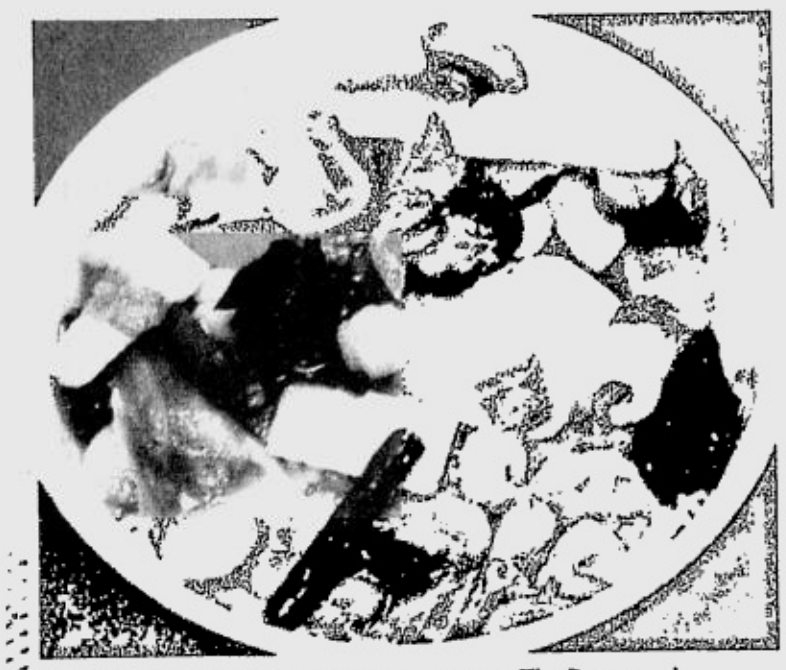
salt

ground black pepper

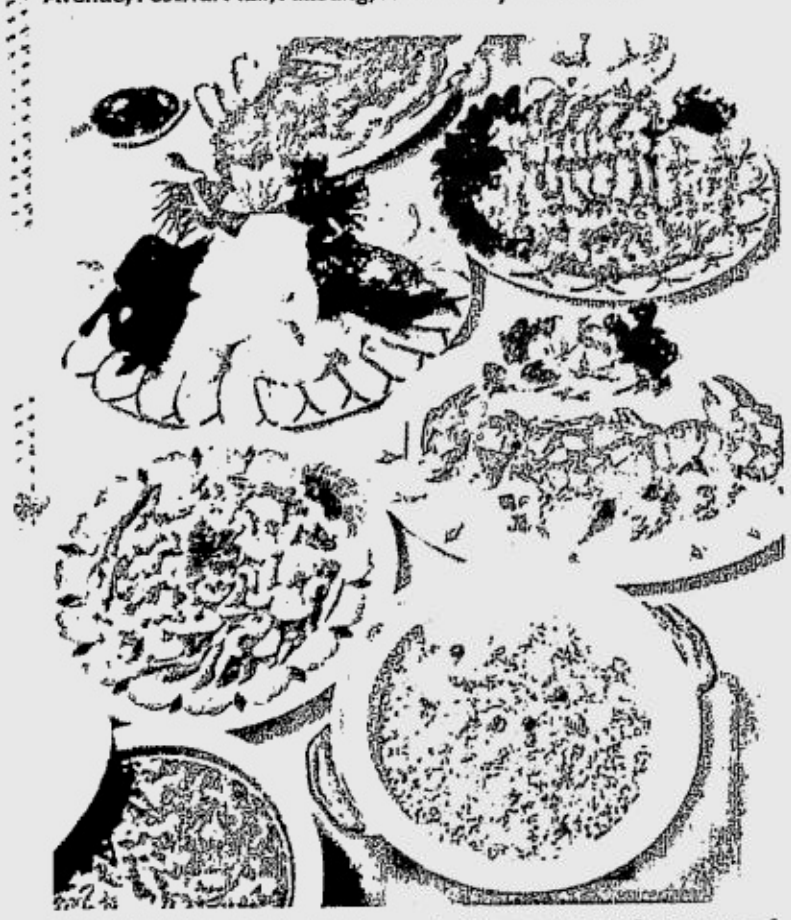
Pre-heat oven at 350 °F. Roast chicken according to package directions. Meanwhile, put garlic in foil then drizzle with olive oil and salt. Close foil then bake in the oven for 30 to 45 minutes, or until garlic has softened and produces a pale-brown color. In a large mixing boil, combine potatoes, paprika, Italian seasoning, salt, and black pepper. Roast the potatoes in the oven until potatoes are crusty. Pull the potatoes out of the oven then toss in the roasted garlic. Season again with salt and pepper to adjust the flavor.

Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Haven of holiday treats



SUPER Bowl of China will open tomorrow at The Promenade, Greenhills Shopping Center, Greenhills, San Juan. Offered are Assorted Seafood on Rice (above photo), Deep Fried Spring Roll, Fresh Shrimp Dumplings, Steamed Shanghai Dumpling, Crispy Noodles with Seafood, Braised E-fu Noodles, Stir-fried Egg Noodles with Soya Sauce, BBQ Pork Asado, Mixed Vegetables, Braised Seafood with Beancurd, Roast Duck, Lapu-lapu Fillet and Beef with Oyster Sauce. Super Bowl of China is located at Megastrip, SM Megamall; Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati; Glorietta 4, Makati; Chefs Avenue, Festival Mall, Alabang; and SM City North Edsa.



HARBOUR City Seafood Restaurant offers a set menu for a group of 6-8 persons. The menu includes Shrimps in X-O Sauce and Cashew Nuts, Seafood with Spinach Soup, Steamed Red Pearl Fish in Tao-so, Steamed Crabs with salted duck egg, Fried Pigeon, Yang Chow Fried Rice, Almond Jelly with Fruit Cocktail. Harbour City is located along Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 8979797/ 0707.

DINING OUT

MANDARIN Oriental Manila recreates Hansel and Gretel's gingerbread house at the hotel's lobby and first level of Alabang Town Center until Dec. 31. Featured are pralines, Dresdener Stollens, Swiss chocolate brunzli, English fruit cake, duck liver pate, Christmas cookies, cheeses, assorted cold cuts, wines and Christmas hampers. Call 7508888.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko offers Asian and international buffet, which includes Roast Beef, Sashimi, Sushi and Tempura. A Christmas and New Year Yuletide Buffet, which includes a Champagne Buffet, will be offered for lunch and dinner on Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1, 2005. Get one free meal whenever you dine with a group of 8, 12 and 16 persons availing of the buffet, plus free one round of iced tea or softdrink. The Deli Shop offers Christmas cookies, pralines and chocolates, ginger breads, ham, turkey and wines. Call 8673333.

CHATEAU 1771 Group of Restaurants features special *bibingka* and *puto bumbong* at Chateau 1771, El Pueblo Real de Manila, Ortigas, tel. 6317340; Sentro 1771, 2/L, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati, 7573940; and Portico 1771, 1771 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila, 5232063. For Grand Gourmand and Sidebar cardholders, the Round O'Five treat is offered until Jan. 30, 2005. Get P200 off your final check for every minimum single food and beverage purchase of P1,000. Call 5251073.

SHANGHAI Bistro presents "Eat All You Can" dimsum promo. For a minimum of four persons and at P199 per person, customers can order all the dimsum they can eat. Featured are Steamed Pork and Shrimp Siomai, Sio Lung Pao, Pan-fried Pork and Vegetable Dumpling, Deep-fried Taro Puff and Pan-fried Shanghai Onion Cake, Pumpkin Soup with Crabstick and Sweet Corn Soup with Minced Chicken. Call 6877103/ 6871861.

BURGOO offers food in foil packages for fuss-free parties. The packages include appetizers, pizza, pasta, salads, subs 'n burgers. Burgoo is located at 310 Tomas Morato Ext., South Triangle Diliman, QC; 2/L, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong; and 3/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 9277424, 8981 1815-16, 6875254.

Yummy giveaways

ALBA Deli Gift Packages will be most welcome giveaways to employees, office colleagues and clients, even family and friends.

Each package comes with helpful serving suggestions and tips on how to store and cook the items it contains.

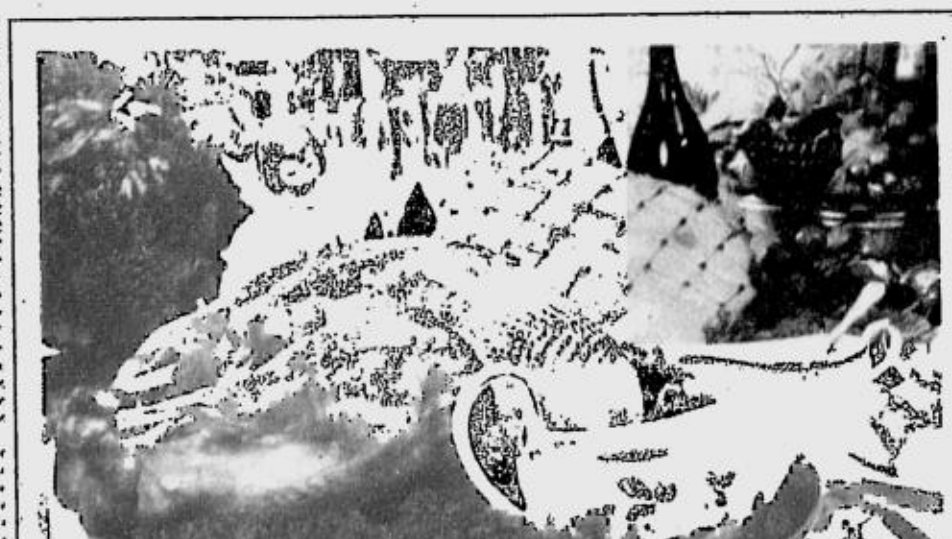
Alba Deli Gift Packages are available in five conveniently priced choices—small box (P750), big box (P900), Basket A (P1,200), Basket B (P1,800, with red or white wine), and Basket C (P3,000, with champagne).

They include all-time favorite Spanish hams, sausages, *tapas* and other delicacies. Delicatessen items are available all-year round at any Alba Deli counter, 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m., everyday.

Orders should be made at least one to two days in advance. Delivery options are also available.

Alba Restaurante Español branches are located in Bel-Air, Makati City (tel. 8961912); Tomas Morato, QC (9251912) and Eastwood Avenue, Libis, QC (6312216).

ALBA Restaurante Español's Deli Gift Packs, an assortment of Spanish delicacies



GIVE friends and family Honey Baked and Smoke Cured Virginia Ham as gifts this Christmas. You may also opt for Rast US Turkey and have a choice of meat, oyster or apple apricot and sage stuffing. The dish, available in two sizes (medium and large), comes with mashed potato, corn, and cranberry sauce and giblet gravy. It is prepared by Chef Eli of Aurelio's Catering. Call 7267321, 7269329, 7217952, and (0920) 9201883.

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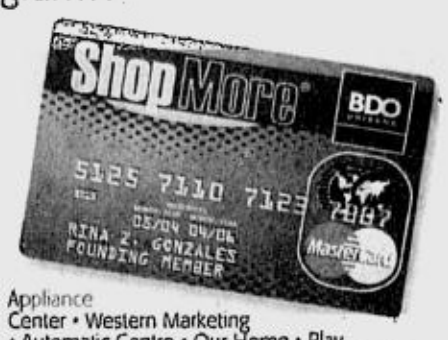

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Shrink your monthly payments – CONVERT your regular card purchases to installment!
Single-receipt purchases of at least P5,000 using your BDO Credit Card may also be converted to installment by simply calling **631-8000.** Cardholders may request for EasyCONVERT within 30 days from the time the transaction is posted to the account.

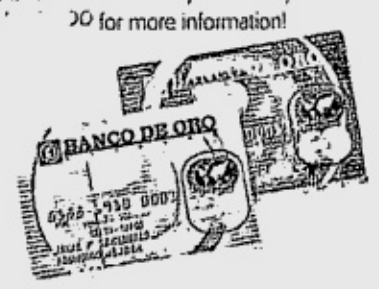
Easy Transfer
Why pay more when you can enjoy a low, low rate of 0.99%?
Be smart. Take a break from paying high interest charges. EasyTRANSFER your other credit card balances to **BDO MasterCard** or **BDO Shop More MasterCard.** Here's how:
1. Photocopy the front portion of your other credit card as well as your latest billing statement with proof of most recent payment.
2. Bring these documents to any BDO Shop More booths located inside selected SM Department stores or any Banco de Oro branch near you and fill-up an application form.
3. Acceptable EasyTRANSFER request is from a maximum of two other credit cards. The minimum transfer amount is P5,000 per card.
4. EasyTRANSFER transactions also earn Rewards Points.

Easy Options
Why wait when you can buy things you want today at 0% interest!
Want to buy that flat screen TV you've been eyeing for a long time? How about giving your living room a fresh look with a new sofa? BDO Credit Card lets you do these and more – choose the lightest and the lowest payment terms at ZERO PERCENT INTEREST! Just go to any of branch of our participating merchant partners within Metro Manila: Toy Kingdom • Globe Telecom • L Time Studio • Fossil • Chronos • SM Appliance Center • Western Marketing • Automatic Centre • Our Home • Play & Display • Ambiance One • Blims Fine Furniture • Sogo Home & Office Center • Index Furniture Center • EDIA • Ace Hardware.

BDO Credit Cards aim to address the consumers' need for greater value, affordability and accessibility in terms of service, pricing and more generous Rewards Points and many other benefits. These include:
- **Free SM Advantage Card**, enabling cardholders to earn up to **four times** more rewards points when used at SM Department Store, Toy Kingdom, Ace Hardware and Sports Central and up to **six times more** when used at SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket and SM Appliance Center;
- **Free Annual Membership Fee** for the first year;
- Up to **five (5) Free supplementary cardholders** for applications received on or before December 31, 2004; and
- Other in-store promotions in the form of **discounts and freebies** at SM affiliate stores as well as many participating shops, hotels and restaurants beyond SM premises.

BDO Credit Cards issue **BDO Shop More MasterCard, BDO Standard**, and the **BDO Gold MasterCard**, all accepted worldwide. BDO Credit Cards are also loaded with these standard features: Free Lost Card Protection, Wide Payment Network, 24-Hour Cardholder Services, Cash Advance facility of up to 30% their credit limit, plus the convenience of BDO's longer banking hours that extend even up to Sundays and holidays for selected branches.

Take it **EASY.** We'll show you how – just call [illegible]00 for more information!



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Per DTI Permit No. 5868. Series of 2004.

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Text us your feedback:
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Tex-Mex with Asian touches

Chili's believes frequent changes in the menu will keep clients interested

BLACKENED Tilapia Fillet

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

AT LEAST twice a year, Chili's Grill and Bar changes its menu to please discriminating diners, who are always on the lookout for new, interesting dishes.

"We believe that changing the menu or offering new dishes on top of the popular items will make your clients come back often as they would be curious about the changes," says Laine de Jesus, Chili's Grill and Bar marketing head.

Chili's is a franchise of a United States-based restaurant that started in 1975. When Larry Levine put up the first restaurant in Dallas, Texas, he wanted a homey eating-place where neighbors could get together.

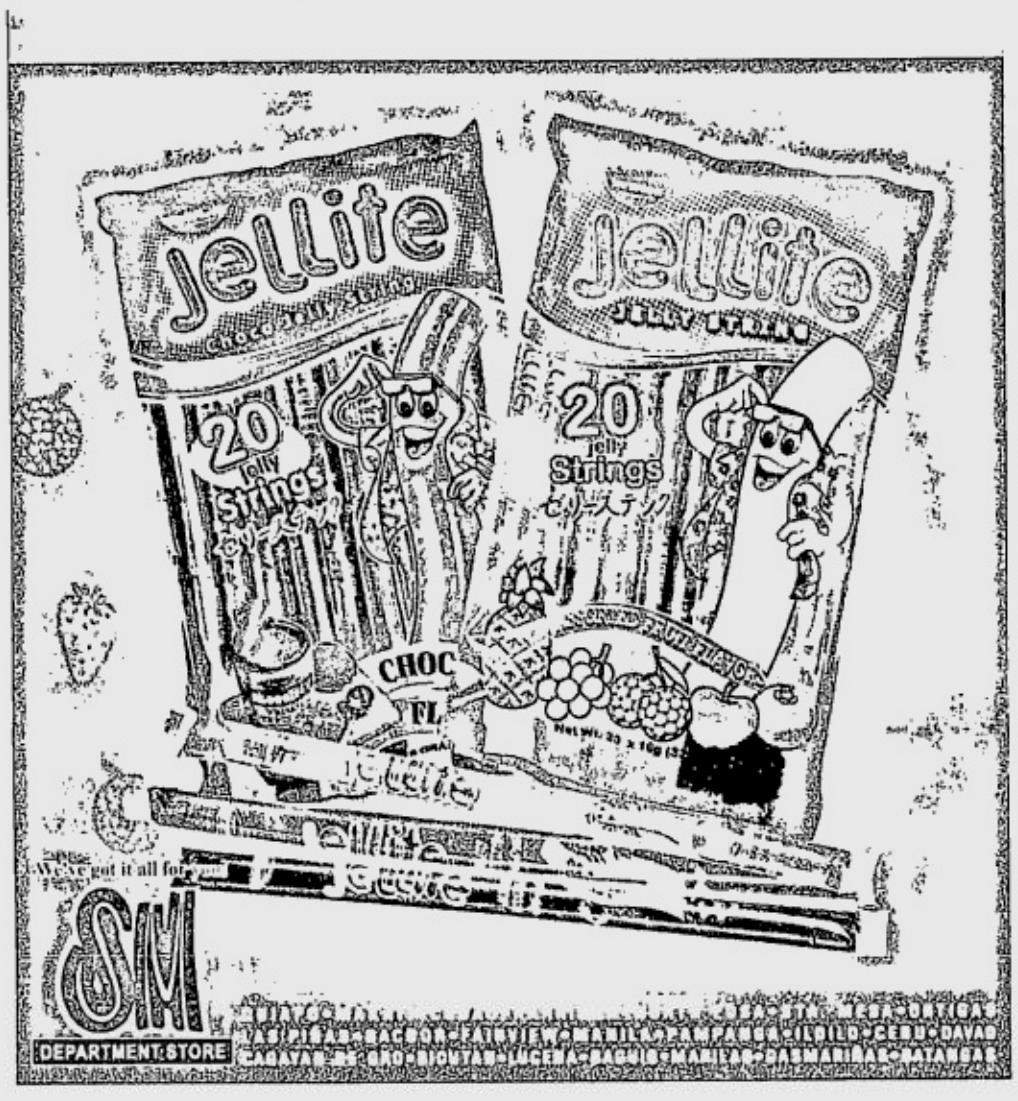
In 1996, three friends—Luis Vera, Richmond Yang and Winston Chan—got the franchise and brought Chili's to the Philippines. A fourth friend, Robert Eppes, eventually joined the group and put up Am-Phil Food Concepts Inc., the company that franchises Chili's in the Philippines.

The Tex-Mex restaurant is hard to

TEX-MEX/ E4

Snack Factory

'Tis a bunch of Jolly JELLY treats



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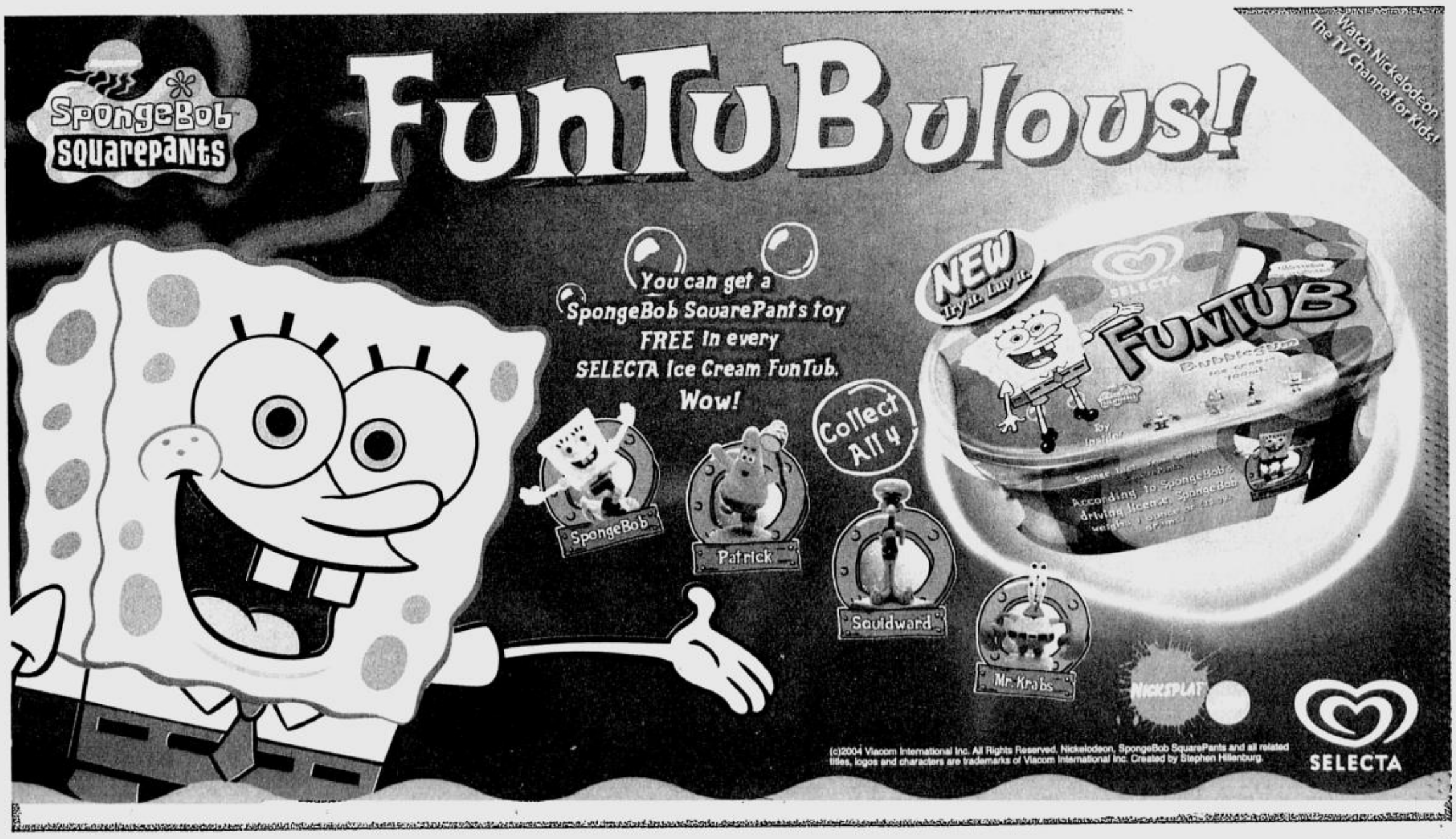
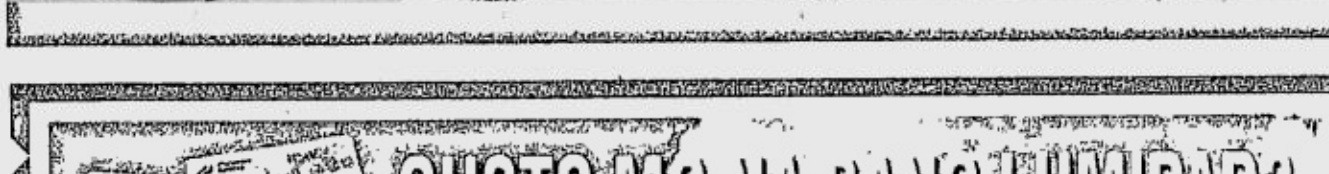
See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2105 Series of 2004





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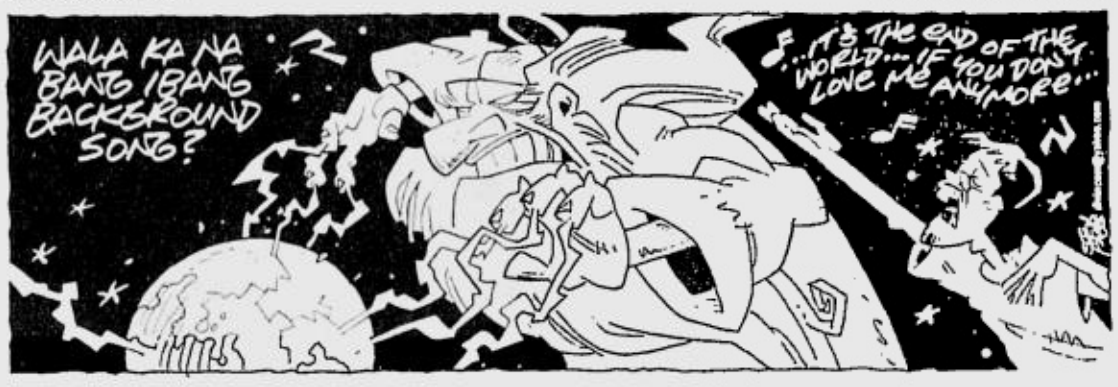
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're fiery, energetic, bold and romantic! You love daring exploits, and you like to be in the limelight. You seek out adventure. You love to test yourself. This is because you have a strong hero archetype within you. You will always protect your family. The year ahead is meant for finishing things and wrapping up major cycles.
Birthdate of: Judi Dench, actress; Kirk Douglas, actor; Felicity Huffman, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to focus on bills, debt, insurance matters and how to share something with someone. If you work on these details, they will be done quickly!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be very patient with partners and close friends . It's important to hear what somebody else has to say. (Always two reasons for doing anything: a good reason and the real reason.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Act on your urge to get more organized at work. You like to multitask. You don't like routine. The more organized you are, the more you can accomplish!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today's Moon is in Scorpio, your fellow Water sign. That's why you feel playful, prankish and ready for some fun. (You might want to flirt a little as well.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Focus on a family member today, perhaps a parent. Someone in your domestic scene needs your attention. Possibly you need some quiet time today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day for business, buying and selling, signing contracts and taking short trips. Keep up with the pace. Conversations with siblings are likely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a lovely day to shop for yourself or for loved ones. In particular, you'll want to buy beautiful clothes, jewelry and art.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The Moon is in your sign today. This makes you more emotional, but it also makes you more intense when dealing with others. It brings you a little bit of luck.

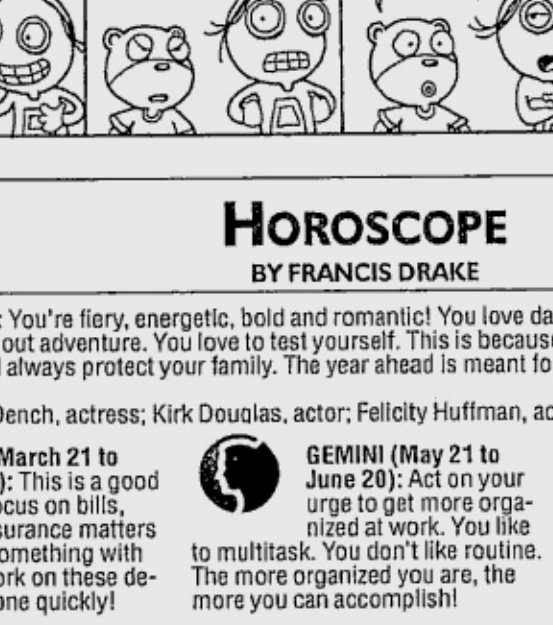
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's best for you to work behind the scenes today, or to work alone. You might be successful when dealing with the government or large organizations, like prisons and hospitals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You'll enjoy conversations with friends today, especially female friends. Confidential conversations give you a feeling of bonding with someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You should be aware that others will notice you more than usual today. Something you do will call attention to you. Conversations with bosses and authority figures are important.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to explore any kind of study in any field that interests you. Sign up for a course. Visit bookstores and libraries. Expand your education and knowledge of the world.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
12/9/04

ACROSS
1 Craze
4 Neruda or Casals
9 Passport stamps
14 Noshed
15 Effective use
16 Become violently active
17 Defeated fruit?
20 Chip maker
21 "Steppenwolf" author
22 Shot a hole-in-one
23 Formalized argument
26 Uncooked
29 Was in front
30 Desire wrongfully
31 Mexicali money
32 Wise people
33 Border
35 Boisterous fruit?
38 Court judgment
39 Report card info
40 Chip in a chip
41 Slugger Roger
42 Drenched
45 Me in Marseilles
46 Be serious about something
48 Slim and muscular
49 Safe
51 Peer recognition
52 Capital fruit?
57 Clarinetist Shaw
58 Part of RFD
59 Diarist Anais
60 Prolific plants
61 Type of alcohol
62 Deed

DOWN
1 Salon procedure
2 Pronto
3 Pockmarked
4 Mira Sorvino's dad
5 5th or Lex.
6 Prevent
7 Falsehood
8 So last year
9 Poetry
10 Gershwin and Levin
11 Freudian concept
12 Mimic
13 Religious figs.
18 Math-proof letters
19 Understand
23 Orphan calf
24 __ as we speak
25 Groom's attendant
27 You wish!
28 Finished first
30 Perry Mason story
31 Exports, for short
32 Father
33 Deserve
34 Refuges
35 Ashcroft's predecessor
36 Turn on
37 Mata _
38 Hydroelectric structure
41 Grown up
42 Actress Ryder
43 Sexy
44 Despot
46 Ponders
47 "Strange Magic" grp.
48 Chel Yan's pan
50 Parched
51 Corridor
52 Manhandle
53 Afore
54 Impatient comment
55 Regal letters
56 Earthly rotation

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	A	T		M	A	L	L		B	E	A	N	O
L	A	V	A		A	R	E	S		A	P	P	E	L
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MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

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KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Courtship, marriage and 'Burong Talangka'

Editor's note: The second runner-up in the Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing 2004 contest, this essay should have been published last week. We apologize for the mix-up.

By Didith Tan Rodrigo

Cured crablet paste is an acquired taste, quite addicting and a definite culinary high

FOR MANY young couples, the acid test of acceptance into each other's family is wealth, education or purity of bloodline. In my case, it was a trial by ordeal: eating *burong talangka*. My husband's family, Bulaqueños to the last, laid a spread of broiled fish, rice, fresh vegetables and cold, charcoal-colored crablets that were unmistakably uncooked. "*Kain tayo*," I was invited.

Generally speaking, raw food does not faze me. I love sushi, sashimi, steak tartare and *kinilaw*. But raw crab? This was a first.

As per my husband's instructions, my *burong talangka* meal began with a pile of freshly steamed rice. Then, taking a crablet in hand, I removed its apron (its abdomen, folded under its body) and its shell. With upward strokes of my thumbnail, I scraped the sticky black fat from the underside of the shell and rubbed it onto my rice. Then I squeezed the body with both thumbs, yielding an orange, black, and off-white paste. Using the now-clean crab shell, I scooped a mixture of vinegar and *patis* onto the paste-and-rice combination, gathered a ball up in my fingers, and nudged the morsel into my mouth.

Initially, I could only taste the salt. Soon, though, I was savoring the sticky fat, the tangy vinegar, and the rich flesh. *Burong talangka* has an aggressiveness that is absent from cooked *taba ng talangka*. While the latter still has the *talangka*'s essential flavors, the addition of other condiments plus the cooking mutes the *talangka*'s boldness. Before long, I was addicted.

Withdrawal symptoms

In the early years of our marriage, I had to rely on my mother-in-law to provide us with my *buro* fix, a seasonal treat. I suffered from withdrawal during the summer months and greeted the first rainfall with, "Is there *talangka* yet?" Finally, after some quick instructions from my mother-in-law, I decided it was time to make my own.

As with many dishes, freshness is essential. In Metro Manila markets, I pay up to P250 per kilo of live, preferably female *talangka*. Upon returning home, I dump the *talangka* into the kitchen sink where my daughter sprays them until the water runs clear. Using a pair of metal tongs, she then seizes the live *talangka* and transfers them into a clean container. She even chases after the escapees that fall to the floor and threaten our dogs with their pincers.

Practically any container, whether plastic, metal or glass, will do. Our favorite, though, is a two-layer plastic tub designed to store pasta or salad greens. The outer layer is a deep, covered bowl. The inner layer is colander-like, allowing the contents' fluids to drain.

I sprinkle a handful of rock salt over the *talangka* and seal the container. Upon another aunt's advice, I give the container a few vigorous shakes to distribute the salt. The container then goes into the refrigerator, where it cures for two days.

Worth the effort

After an agonizing 48 hours, we sit down to a feast of fried fish (preferably *galunggong*), diced tomatoes, *arosep* (seaweed), chopped green mangoes, steamed rice, and of course, *burong talangka*. My husband and I leave the breakfast table with blackened fingernails and chafed thumbs, but the flavors are well worth the effort.

My *burong talangka* addiction has had several interesting side effects. It has put me in touch with others of my kind: relatives, colleagues and family friends who also crave the delicacy.

My own father used to love *burong talangka* as a young man. As he grew up, though, he forfeited the habit because his aunt warned him that they would give him cholera. After years of abstinence, I persuaded him to give my *buro* a try, and an old habit was instantly revived.

One of my petty frustrations now is that *talangka* are not always available. I recently learned from our *suki* that *talangka* are essentially a fishpond by-product. He only receives *talangka* when they happen to be harvested along with *sugpo* (prawns).

A fact or two

I have also picked up a factoid or two about Filipino culinary tradition. *Talangka* are, apparently, a Tagalog delicacy. *Buro*, in particular, is a Northern Tagalog favorite.

My Batangueña mother loves *talangka* when they are *halabos* (steamed, with a little salt), but recoils at the idea of eating them raw. In the Visayas, according to our household helpers, *talangka* are seldom eaten at all.

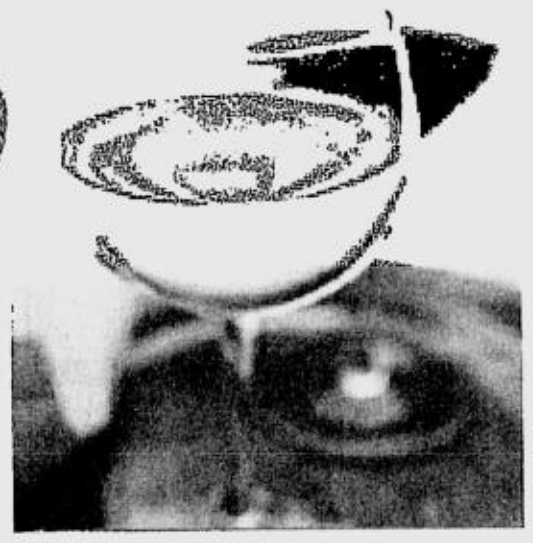
For those who do eat them, though, *talangka* are a passion. As children, my husband and his cousins would wait for the rainy season to fill the rice paddies. Once flooded, the kids would dive in, recycled tins and plastic jugs in hand, to scrounge pre-laid traps for *talangka*. Upon harvesting all their containers could carry, they would rush home, wet and filthy, to have their mothers process their catch.

Those kids and I share the same excitement and anticipation: anything for *buro*. This is how far we go for the freshest flavors, prepared in the simplest of ways, to achieve one of the greatest culinary joys.

Holiday drinks

Sweet spirit

Dooley's Original Toffee and Vodka is a good choice for the holidays. The newly introduced Dooley's is a cream spirit that combines the richness of toffee and the smoothness of vodka—with only half the fat compared to other cream-based liqueurs. Dooley's Original Toffee Cream Liqueur is made in Germany from fine toffee caramel, fresh cream and premium vodka. It can be enjoyed straight up, on the rocks, in martinis, mudslides, floats and with coffee.



Bienvenue Beaujolais

Wine and coffee were the toast of the town at the Soiree Beaujolais 2004 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio. In cooperation with Nescafe Gold, Le Club French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines sponsored the event, an annual affair to honor the year's new Beaujolais wine.

Toast to 150 years

Hardys Wine Company, Australia's largest wine producer, introduced in Manila recently the Oomoo Shiraz 2001 and the Tintara Cabernet Sauvignon 1999. The ruby red Oomoo wine, released to commemorate Hardy's 150th anniversary in 2003, is "a full bodied, generous wine from South Australia." Tintara Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 from the Tintara Cellars is a food wine with hints of aromas of ripe blackcurrants, plum, cherry, peppermint, chocolate and cedar.

A taste of vodka this Christmas

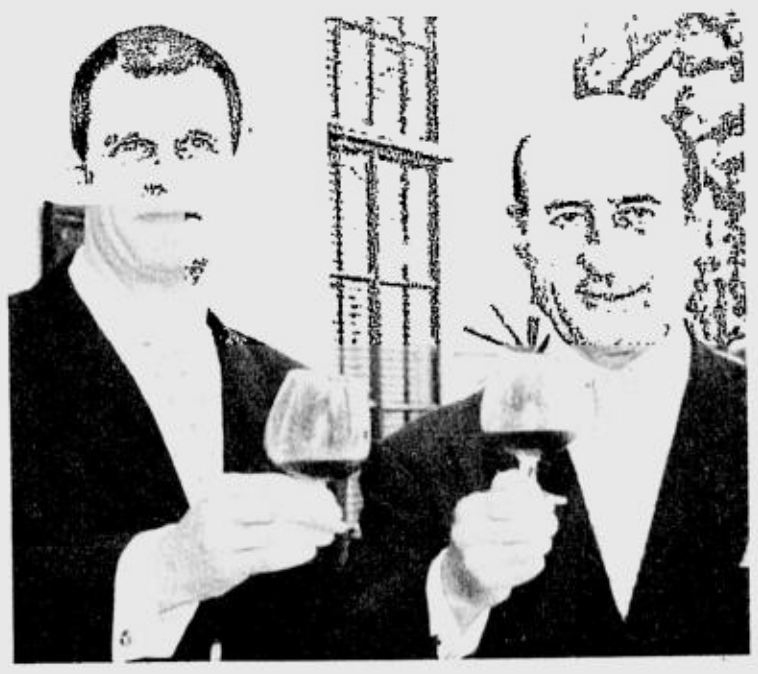
Get ready for all the partying this holiday season. But whether you are celebrating at home or outside, open up a bottle of one of the world's best vodkas—Toska Vodka. Drink it straight on the rocks, or mix it with some lime and soda for a Toska Kamikaze, or with other favorite mixers. Toska's neutral characteristics make it the perfect base for various cocktails. It is also smooth enough to drink straight. Toska Vodka is available at fine liquor stores everywhere.

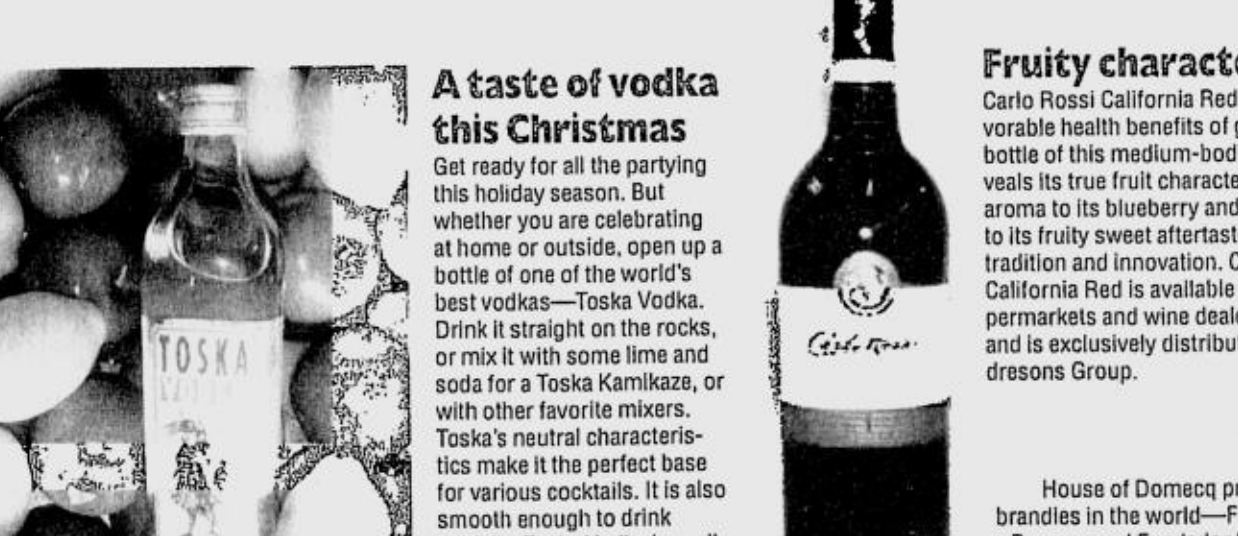
Fruity character

Carlo Rossi California Red has all the favorable health benefits of grapes. Every bottle of this medium-bodied wine reveals its true fruit character, from its rich aroma to its blueberry and plum flavors to its fruity sweet aftertaste—a blend of tradition and innovation. Carlo Rossi California Red is available in leading supermarkets and wine dealers nationwide and is exclusively distributed by The Andresons Group.

Top brandies

House of Domecq presents some of the best brandies in the world—Fundador, Fundador Gold Reserve and Fundador Exclusivo. Fundador, the company's flagship brand, has been in the Philippines for more than a hundred years and is the country's No. 1 imported spirit.





Fine wines for outstanding men

WINNERS of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awards were treated to a sumptuous dinner and fine wines sponsored by Ernest & Julio Gallo Sierra Valley Wines.

The six-course menu was prepared by chef Gene Gonzales of Café Ysabel. Each course was complemented by one of the Sierra Valley Wines. Prior to the dinner itself, canapés were served complemented by Sierra Valley White Zinfandel 2003. During dinner, visually impaired pianist Raymond Gatdula played background music.

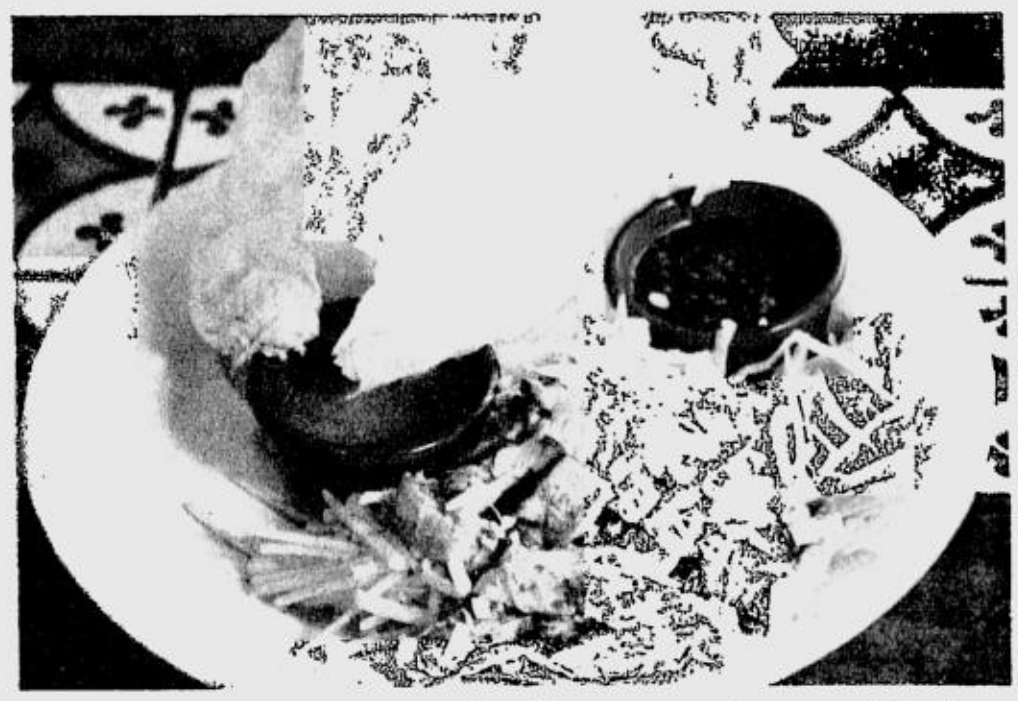
TOYM awardees present included John Lu Koa (Business Entrepreneurship, 1996), Eva Marie Cutiongco de Lara (Medical Genetics, 2002), Reynaldo Gregorio (Economics and Public Administration, 1966), Antonio Arizabal (Iron and Steel, 1966), Josiah Go (Business Education, 2001), Luis Gatmaitan (Literature, 2003), Enrique Filamor (Investment Banking, 1982), Renato Labadan (Agricultural Science, 1970) and Chino Toledo (Music Composition, 1997).

National Artist for Sculpture and 1959 TOYM award winner Napoleon Abueva was also there with his wife, Sergia.

Gonzales, a TOYM awardee himself, toasted his fellow award winners with Sierra Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2002. The white wine was served to complement the duck breast with wasabi crème and warm salad of baked apple, gooseliver and roasted tasso on the side. Soup, which was cappuccino of truffle, wild mushrooms and leek crème, was matched with Sierra Valley Chardonnay 2002. The main course of venison fillet with roasted onion mashed potatoes was matched with Sierra Valley Merlot 2003 and Sierra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2002.

A flourless chocolate cake with five-spice powder, lemon curd and a scoop of dried mango ice cream was paired with Ballatore Gran Spumante.

GINGER-CITRUS Glazed Salmon, eight-oz Norwegian salmon fillet seared and topped with a ginger-citrus glaze and sesame seeds RUDY ESPERAS



LETTUCE Wraps, grilled Asian-spiced chicken with carrots, water chestnuts and almonds, served with crisp Bibb lettuce and sesame ginger and peanut sauces for dipping RUDY ESPERAS

Tex-Mex with Asian touches

From page E1

miss with the giant red chili on a central beam. Inside, there are hanging bicycles and tricycles, airplanes and biplanes.

Chili's is a casual-dining place ideal for families and *barkada*, young urban professionals and the drinking crowd.

New dishes

The franchise came with a core menu to which the local group added, with the approval of the mother company. Chili's new offerings, served in portions big enough for sharing, basically play on Asian flavors with the addition of ginger-citrus sauces.

Appetizers include Chili's Shanghai Wings (P315), a pound of chicken wings tossed in ginger-citrus sauce and topped with sesame seeds. The chicken is served on a bed of rice sticks and comes with wasabi-ranch dressing.

For salad lovers, Lettuce Wraps (P430) is grilled Asian-spiced chicken with carrots, water chestnuts and almonds, and served with crisp Bibb lettuce and sesame-ginger and peanut sauces for dipping.

Seafood eaters can try the Ginger-Citrus Glazed Salmon (P495), an eight-oz salmon fillet seared and topped with a ginger-citrus glaze and sesame seeds. The Norwegian salmon is served with rice and fresh veggies.

Another option is the Blackened Tilapia Fillet (P275), spicy fresh *tilapia* fillet dredged in peppercorn spice and served with black beans and rice.

The pasta line has three new additions: Tomato Basil Chicken Pasta (P320), grilled chicken breast on penne pasta with marinara sauce, seasoned tomatoes, fresh basil, Parmesan cheese and garlic toast; Guiltless Tomato Basil Pasta (P225), penne pasta with marinara sauce, seasoned tomatoes, fresh basil and Parmesan cheese; and Crispy Calamari Putanesca (P295), linguine putanesca tossed in olive oil with crispy *calamari* and steamed veggies on the side.

Meat lovers can have Braised Beef Shank (P330), generous portions of beef shanks smothered in rich brown sauce and topped with garlic flakes.

The Skillet Sandwich (P220), a double-decker of spicy ham, crispy bacon and Monterey Jack cheese in rich Marinara and Alfredo sauces, is for the "I'm-not-so-hungry" guests.

New desserts include Creamy Cheesecake, Chocolate Pecan Mousse, Strawberry Dreams and Jamochan Almond Sans Rival.

Of course, Chili's signature dishes remain: Wings over Buffalo, Grilled Baby Back Ribs, massive hamburgers, Fajitas and the very popular Molten Chocolate Cake, a warm chocolate cake bursting with chocolate fudge filling and topped with vanilla ice cream wrapped in a crunchy chocolate shell.

Chili's Grill and Bar has outlets in Greenbelt, Makati; Northeast Greenhills; and Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City.

SHANGHAI Wings with wasabi-ranch dressing RUDY ESPERAS

STRAWBERRY Dreams

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Human Rights Consciousness Week

10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma Milestone Event

Government Reform Initiative Underway

AFTER all these months of eager anticipation, the entire Filipino community welcomes the fruits of partnerships among government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations in the pursuit of good governance in the Philippines. "10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma," is now underway through its culmination held yesterday at the Heroes' Hall, Malacañang with Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo attending as Guest of Honor.

The ceremony held in commemoration of Human Rights Consciousness Week was highlighted by the signing of the 10 to 10 covenant by the heads of various government, business and civil society groups. This is the culmination of the 10-week Governance Reforms Campaign, which seeks to unite sectors toward addressing challenges and maximizing opportunities for governance reforms and nation building, with special attention to the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized sectors of the country. The Reform initiatives took off from the first cycle of the Governance Portfolio of the Government of the Philippines and United Nations Development Program covering the period 2002-2004.

The event dubbed as "10 to 10 " Dekada ng Reporma, is a multisectoral campaign with the overall theme of " Engaging the People and Communities: Advancing Governance-Reforms toward the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals ". This was launched last Oct. 12, during the opening of the Local Governance Expo by the Department of Interior and Local Government , the Philippine-Canada Local Government Support Program (LGSP) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and 10 to 10 Secretariat, which is the kick off event of the 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reforma.

The commemoration event was organized by the Commission on Human Rights in cooperation with the 10 to 10 Secretariat with the theme: "Good Governance is Human Rights: People's Rights First in the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals. CHR Chair Purificacion Quisumbing, 10 to 10 chair Mary Ann Fernandez-Mendoza and vice chair Austere Panadero led the participation and involvement of the multi-sectoral groups for the event.

Present were Vice President Noli de Castro, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr and UNDP Resident Representative, a.i.Kyo Naka, CHR Chair Purificacion C. Valera Quisumbing, CSC Chair Karina Contantino David, Comelec Chair Benjamin S. Abalos Sr. DOJ Secretary Raul M. Gonzalez, DBM Secretary Emilia Boncodin, DILG Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, NAPC Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas, NCRFW chair Myrna T. Yao, DAP president Eduardo T. Gonzales. Also in attendance were honorable Justices of the Supreme Court, and distinguished officials and officers of the different government agencies, business and civil society groups.

"This is a celebration on the breakthroughs of innovative approaches and good governance practices, providing a venue to share lessons learned and contributions to good governance and nation-building", Chief Justice Davide said in his message.

This is a celebration on the breakthroughs of innovative approaches and good governance practices, providing a venue to share lessons learned and contributions to good governance and nation-building

Under the 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reforma, , the three key stakeholders are government institutions, the private sector, and the civil society. "Government institutions consists of all three branches of government that, as duty holders, are guided by the principles of good governance in performing the state's obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights for human development."

"The private sector comprises economic entities regulated by government with enhanced corporate citizenship in terms of transparency, responsibility, and accountability for realization of human development particularly engaging in practices that are non-violative of human rights and fundamental freedom.", as espoused in the guiding principles of governance reforms.

"The civil society organizations are organized and mobilized for people's participation and empowerment as claimholders of rights into a social force that provides check and balance on government powers and abuses in the context of full realization of human rights and human development."

The Chief Justice also gave an assurance that the judiciary will actively take part in reaching for and realizing the Millennium Development Goals. "As the last bulwark of democracy, the sentinel of the Rule of Law and the bastion of justice in the country, the judiciary is committed to perform its role and duties with utmost fidelity to the trust

Tapat-Palakad, Bayang Maunlad

10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma

character of public office and with passion and excellence. All of these are essential values for effective good governance and national unity and solidarity", Davide said.

He called on the civil society to transform themselves as a social force providing the check and balance on government powers and abuses.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide was introduced by Commission on Human Rights Chair Purificacion Quisumbing. Mary Ann Fernandez-Mendoza, chair of 10 to 10 gave the welcome remarks and ASec. Austere Panadero informed the audience of the highlights and updates of the 10-point thematic concerns of the campaign.

The main feature of the program was the presentation of commitments by the multi-sectoral representatives headed by Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David, National Anti-Poverty Commission head Secretary Imelda Nicolas, PNP Chief Gen. Edgar Aglipay for the government sector. DBP Chair Vitaliano Nanagas, co-chair of Bisyon 2020, David Balangue, vice chairman of Bisyon 2020, Maria Lourdes Avancena-Arcenas, executive director, Bisyon 2020, Max de Mesa of the Civil Society and Red Batario, representing media in governance sector.

'Good governance is human rights'

'People's rights first in the realization of the millennium development goals'

- President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Tapat-Palakad, Bayang Maunlad
10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is confident that the country is on the right track in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which is geared towards overcoming poverty, eradicating corruption, good governance and giving the highest priority to reduce social, economic, cultural and political inequalities.

Speaking before participants of the Human Rights Consciousness Week Commemoration: 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma Milestone Event held at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang yesterday, President Arroyo lauded the movers of the campaign. She emphasized that it is not just a celebration of culminating activities but formalizes the aspiration that "Good Governance is Human Rights".

The President cited the efforts of the organizers and participants in the Multi-Sectoral Campaign Festival on Governance Reforms in the country, the public and private individuals, and the international development agencies in improving the quality of public service in the local government and the bureaucracy.

"By engaging our people and the communities in a common road map, we are seeing a resurgence of a sense of community and mutual obligation that will form part of the administration's policies and programs", the President stated in her message.

"The campaign festival will help empower the citizens and accelerate the government's efforts in creating a greater sense of opportunity in line with our 10-Point Legacy Agenda to beat the odds", President Arroyo further said.

The President commended the relentless efforts and initiatives of the Commission on Human Rights in mainstreaming human rights criteria and standards into governance through its investigation, legal, assistance, training, advocacy and monitoring operations for the protection and promotion of human rights across the country. These initiatives are continuously pursued by the CHR Chair Purificacion C. Valera Quisumbing and the Commissioners, namely: Commissioner Eligio P. Malllari; Commissioner Dominador N. Calamba II, Commissioner Wilhelm D. Soriano and Commissioner Quintin D. Cueto III

With human rights as the focus of the President's message, she emphasized the importance of the Rights-based Approach in legislation, planning and budgeting and programming of services and programs in order to be more responsive to the phenomenon of poverty in the country and in ensuring justice and compliance with human rights for all. As the President stressed, the cooperation of all government agencies, local government units, civil society and business is crucial to realizing the goal of peace, human rights and development

During the affair, the President took note that under the international human rights instruments, the government is called upon to strengthen its capacities in the programmatic application of human rights standards in the various governance processes through rights-based approach to facilitate convergence of human rights and development.

On the AFP and PNP, President Arroyo called on the men in uniform to remain steadfast in advocating human rights. She instructed the AFP and PNP leadership to integrate in their academic curricula the study of human rights concepts, principles, standards, instruments, and their application as regular subjects in military schools.

President Arroyo instructed the AFP and PNP to create in all command units, and offices under the four services of the AFP and all PNP districts in all regions Human Rights Desk to ensure observance and compliance with human rights standards..

Recognizing the potential of the Barangay Human Rights Action Center in maintaining human rights community support program at the grassroots level especially in the poorest barangays and villages caught in armed conflicts, the President instructed the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to strengthen BHRAC program and establish BHRACs giving priority to about 5,000 villages in areas of armed conflict.

Messages

MY WARMEST felicitations to the good men and women of the Governance Portfolio of the Government of the Philippines (GOP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the occasion of your 10 to 10 Governance Reforms Campaign-Festival.

I commend the organizers and participants to the Multi-Sectoral Campaign Festival on Governance Reforms in the Philippines involving public and private, as well as international development agencies. Your theme, "Tapat Palakad, Bayang Maunlad," aims to develop and improve the quality of public service of employees in the local government and government agencies in the country.

By engaging our people and the communities along a common road map towards a more prosperous and equitable society, we are seeing a resurgence of a sense of community and mutual obligation that should form the basis of our policies and programs.

I am confident that this campaign festival will help us empower our citizens and accelerate us on our way toward creating a greater sense of opportunity and well-being in our country along with our 10-Point Legacy Agenda to beat the odds.

Mabuhay kayong lahat.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

CONGRATULATIONS to the movers behind the 10-to-10 Campaign Festival on Governance Reforms in the Philippines, especially the men and women from the national and local governments, civil society groups, media and international development agencies who worked together to make the campaign a success.

The campaign's theme, "Engaging the People and Communities: Advancing Governance Reforms Towards the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals," truly captures the call of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Administration for collective action and increased commitment towards alleviating the lives of our poor countrymen. It is indeed important that, as we move ahead towards achieving the 10-point legacy agenda and our international commitment under the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the members of the United Nations, we must allow for greater participation in all processes that improve the lives of the basic sectors and their communities.

Let us unite and harness our resources for the greater good of the Filipino people,

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

I WOULD like to extend my congratulations to the organizers of "Tapat Palakad Bayang Maunlad 10 to 10 Dekada," a Multi-Sectoral Campaign-Festival on Governance Reform in the Philippines, which was launched last Oct. 12 and will culminate on Dec. 9.

The two month long festival has effectively raised awareness on the importance of governance as a foundation for our country's growth. I cannot overemphasize the importance of educating all sectors to engage their support for a unifying framework that will address prevailing issues on governance.

After this Governance Festival, we have a more difficult task ahead. We should all make a commitment that these reforms be implemented within the proposed time frame. Together we can make all this happen.

Again my congratulations. Rest assured that Senate will be behind you in all your worthwhile endeavors.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANKLIN DRILON
Senate President

I WISH to congratulate the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Philippines, the government agencies, and civil society organizations leading the 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma campaign in their celebration of the Governance Reform Festival. Truly, a multi-sectoral effort to advance rights-based reforms in governance in the country is laudable and worth commending.

We, at the House of Representatives, believe that good governance is all about pursuing and implementing right policies to enhance social and economic equity, encourage people's participation, and enable our country to achieve the goals of productivity, efficiency and global competitiveness.

This is also the reason why we strongly support measures that would allow the country to achieve its targets under the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, as the global benchmark for human development. The laws that we enact should have their greatest beneficial impact on the underprivileged and marginalized sectors of society.

Towards this end, we need to forge a strong, united front to address the weaknesses in governance that retard development in the country and hinder Filipino creativity and productivity.

Together, we must find solutions in overcoming these obstacles. This multi-sectoral campaign is a crucial step in this direction. I am confident that with this broad partnership and collaboration, we will achieve the reforms and social progress that we seek for the Filipino nation.

Mabuhay!

JOSE C. DE VENECIA, JR.
House Speaker

MY WARMEST congratulations to the organizers of the 10 to 10 Governance Campaign-Festival for putting together this commendable project to pave the way for collective action towards advancing good governance reforms and for realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Now, more than ever, we must unite if we are to effectively move forward and successfully achieve these critical goals.

I also extend my heartfelt felicitations to the various government agencies and members of civil society which have actively taken part in this Campaign-Festival. We in the Judiciary are one with them in reaching for and realizing the Millennium Development Goals. As the last bulwark of democracy, the sentinel of the Rule of Law and the bastion of justice in the country, the Judiciary is committed to perform its roles and duties with utmost fidelity to the trust character of public office and with a passion for excellence. All of these are essential values for effective good governance and national unity and solidarity.

Let us, therefore, continue to be inspired by the events of the 10 to 10 Governance Campaign-Festival.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

'Engaging the people and communities: Advancing governance reforms towards the realization of the millennium development goals'

A multi-sectoral campaign-festival on governance reforms in the Philippines

HIGHLIGHTS

Dubbed as "10 to 10", the Governance Reform Campaign is designed to refocus public attention from the divisiveness of the May 10 National Elections towards addressing the challenges and maximizing opportunities for nation building. "10 to 10" is a multi-sectoral campaign to dramatize the urgent need for collective action for reforms with the overall theme of Engaging the People and Communities: Advancing Governance Reforms towards the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals. It gathers together national and local governments, civil society organizations, media, international development agencies, and the citizenry to advocate critical governance reforms within the context of the fresh 6-year mandate of President Arroyo and her administration until 2010. Specifically, it shall work within the administration's 10-Point Agenda and commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. "10-10" includes a festival to celebrate the breakthroughs of innovative approaches and good governance practices, providing a venue to share lessons learned and contributions to good governance and nation-building. The campaign revolves around 10 thematic areas on governance that lasts for about 10 weeks. It commenced on Oct. 10, the anniversary of the Local Government Code, and ends on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day.

THEMATIC AREAS

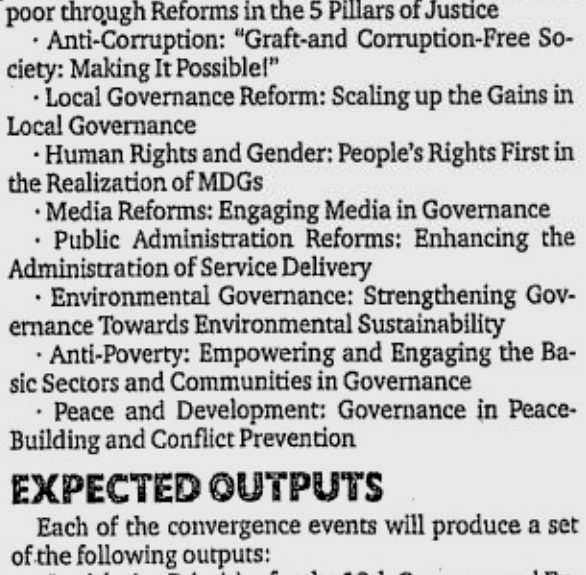
These events will focus on governance reforms with the following thematic areas:

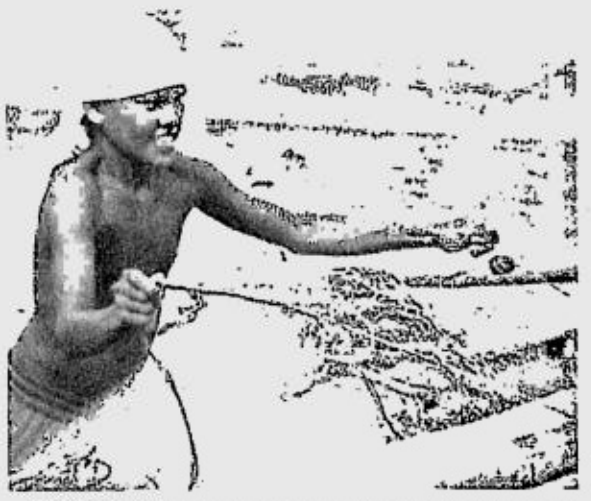
- Electoral and Political Reform: Institutionalizing Reforms in the Electoral and Political Systems
- Justice Reform: Ensuring Access to Justice by the poor through Reforms in the 5 Pillars of Justice
- Anti-Corruption: "Graft-and Corruption-Free Society: Making It Possible!"
- Local Governance Reform: Scaling up the Gains in Local Governance
- Human Rights and Gender: People's Rights First in the Realization of MDGs
- Media Reforms: Engaging Media in Governance
- Public Administration Reforms: Enhancing the Administration of Service Delivery
- Environmental Governance: Strengthening Governance Towards Environmental Sustainability
- Anti-Poverty: Empowering and Engaging the Basic Sectors and Communities in Governance
- Peace and Development: Governance in Peace-Building and Conflict Prevention

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Each of the convergence events will produce a set of the following outputs:

- Legislative Priorities for the 13th Congress and Executive Reform Measures
- Blueprint of Action or Roadmap of Reforms
- Showcase of Good and Innovative Practices
- Covenants or Partnership Pacts among Stakeholders
- Codified Knowledge Products on Governance Reforms
- Models on Participatory Governance Mechanisms and Approaches





Political Reforms: Institutionalizing Reforms in Electoral and Political System

This initiative works towards the adoption of a legal and institutional framework that allows for a free, fair, and transparent electoral process at all levels. It is designed to generate lessons from the May 10 National Elections and from other electoral exercises recently conducted by other countries to serve as inputs to the Philippines Electoral and Political reform agenda for 2005-2010.

Justice Reforms: Ensuring Access to Justice by the poor through Reforms in the 5 Pillars of Justice

This initiative promotes the development of justice system that is responsive and accessible to the poor and disadvantaged. It attempts to bring together for the first time the 5 major pillars of justice including those from the Judiciary, Executive and Legislative branches of government to collectively assess, plan and address gaps in the system. The five pillars include enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, correctional and community integration.

Anti-Corruption: "Graft-and Corruption-Free Society: Making It Possible!"

This initiative strives to transform the bureaucracy that promotes practices on ethical standards, transparency, accountability and integrity in public service. It attempts to bring together all anti-corruption government and non-government institutions to develop a comprehensive blueprint on anti-corruption in response to the PGMA's 10-point agenda. The holding of forum will involve these thematic areas: a) detection and vigilance, b) prosecution, c) information and education, d) building coalition, and e) role of business and professionals.

Local Governance: Scaling up the Gains in Local Governance

This initiative continues to support building local capacities and partnerships to effectively make policy-decisions, manage resources, deliver services and engage the people to participate in community-building. It attempts to bring together practitioners, advocates and partners in local governance and decentralization to celebrate the 13 years of innovative work as well as assess the current state as bases in crafting a medium term agenda. The initiative will be conducted in various forms: Policy Dialogues, Multi-Sectoral Forum and a Nationwide Expo-Caravan. There are at least four (4) themes: a) Replicating / Institutionalizing innovations in Local Governance, b) Creating a more supportive policy environment, c) Strengthening the Multi-Stakeholders to include the National Government and Local Government Convergence, and d) Institutionalizing community participation.

Human Rights and Gender: People's Rights First in the Realization of MDGs

This initiative attempts to mainstream human rights and gender link it with the MDGs thru the rights-based approach in local planning, budgeting and legislation. It involves a) Exhibit of documented knowledge products, b) Cluster meetings and Consultations on HR-MDG Matrix and its finalization, c) Adoption of RBA in the three priority functional areas: national budgeting, local planning and budgeting and legislation, d) National Forum on HR MDG Thematic Areas, and the e) Institutionalization of RBA in identified priority governance processes.

Media Reforms: Engaging Media in Governance Reforms

This initiative attempts to bring together media practitioners to reflect on how they can effectively engage in governance and their roles and responsibilities in the pursuit of governance reforms. This is im-

PEOPLE/ F3

Messages

"Engaging the people and communities: Advancing governance reforms towards the realization of the millennium development goals"

MY CONGRATULATIONS to the movers of the 10 to 10 Multi-Sectoral Campaign-Festival on Governance Reforms. This effort has inspired the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to persistently advocate for good local governance by showcasing exemplary practices of Local Government Units (LGUs), particularly those innovative strategies and tested approaches that promote good governance and sustainable development. We are pursuing decentralization and local governance reform efforts that provide avenues for sharing lessons learned and strategic directions for LGUs over the next decade. In particular, we encourage local governance reforms that improve local policies, promote participatory mechanisms, facilitate institutional change, and increase allocation for basic services to achieve the local targets on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With all LGUs initiating and supporting our local governance reforms, we envision the sense of national community under the rule of law. I wish that the gains of local governance shall be scaled up, sustained, and replicated to other local governments.

ANGELO T. REYES
Secretary

I WOULD like to congratulate the United Nations Development Program for spearheading the 10 to 10 Governance Reforms Campaign Festival and thank our partner agencies for working hard to ensure its success.

For the past years, the government has quietly initiated a number of governance reforms aimed at improving public service delivery. The 10 to 10 Governance Festival is an opportunity to share the fruits of these reforms.

In all these endeavors, we all agree that good governance cannot be done by government alone. Let us thus strengthen the collaborative efforts amongst the civil society, private sector and government in having a unified direction in implementing improvements towards the realization of a better quality of life for the people.

Again, thank you and more power.

EMILIA T. BONCODIN
Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

WE WISH to congratulate the Government of the Philippines, civil society organizations, academe, media, business sector and the international development community for collectively undertaking this historic governance reform campaign-festival dubbed as "10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma" with the theme "Engaging the People and Communities: Advancing Governance Reforms towards the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals."

We have been deeply honored to be part of this multi-stakeholder "10 to 10" initiative. The United Nations family in the Philippines, in the context of the United Nations Development Framework or UNDAF, stands ready to support the government and other key stakeholders as they move ahead with the follow-up to this campaign-festival.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

DEBORAH LANDEY
United Nations Resident Coordinator and
United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative

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plemented through the following: (a) Conduct studies on community media performance in the 2004 elections and its impact on governance at the local level; (b) Three (3) island workshops on media's role in governance (one each in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao) to include presentation and discussion of study findings. (c) Consolidation and presentation of workshop outputs in national media and governance stakeholders forum; (d) National sharing forum for the community press to present experiences in media-community partnerships. Showcase areas: Palawan, Iloilo, Bicol.

Public Administration Reforms: Enhancing the Administration of Service Delivery

This initiative highlights the reforms needed to enhance the service delivery capacity of national government agencies and LGUs to realize the MDGs. A national conference among public administration schools and practitioners tackles the roles of schools in promoting PAR; and the best practices in extending capacity building interventions to local and national government agencies. A series of fora is undertaken to give particular focus on new approaches and lessons learned in improving service delivery.

Environmental Governance: Strengthening Governance towards Environmental Sustainability

This initiative seeks to promote an enabling environment for sustainable environmental interventions. This includes multi-sectoral consultations and campaign to advocate for the passage of an omnibus law on the environment. The proposed code rationalizes and sets the direction of managing our environment and natural resources.

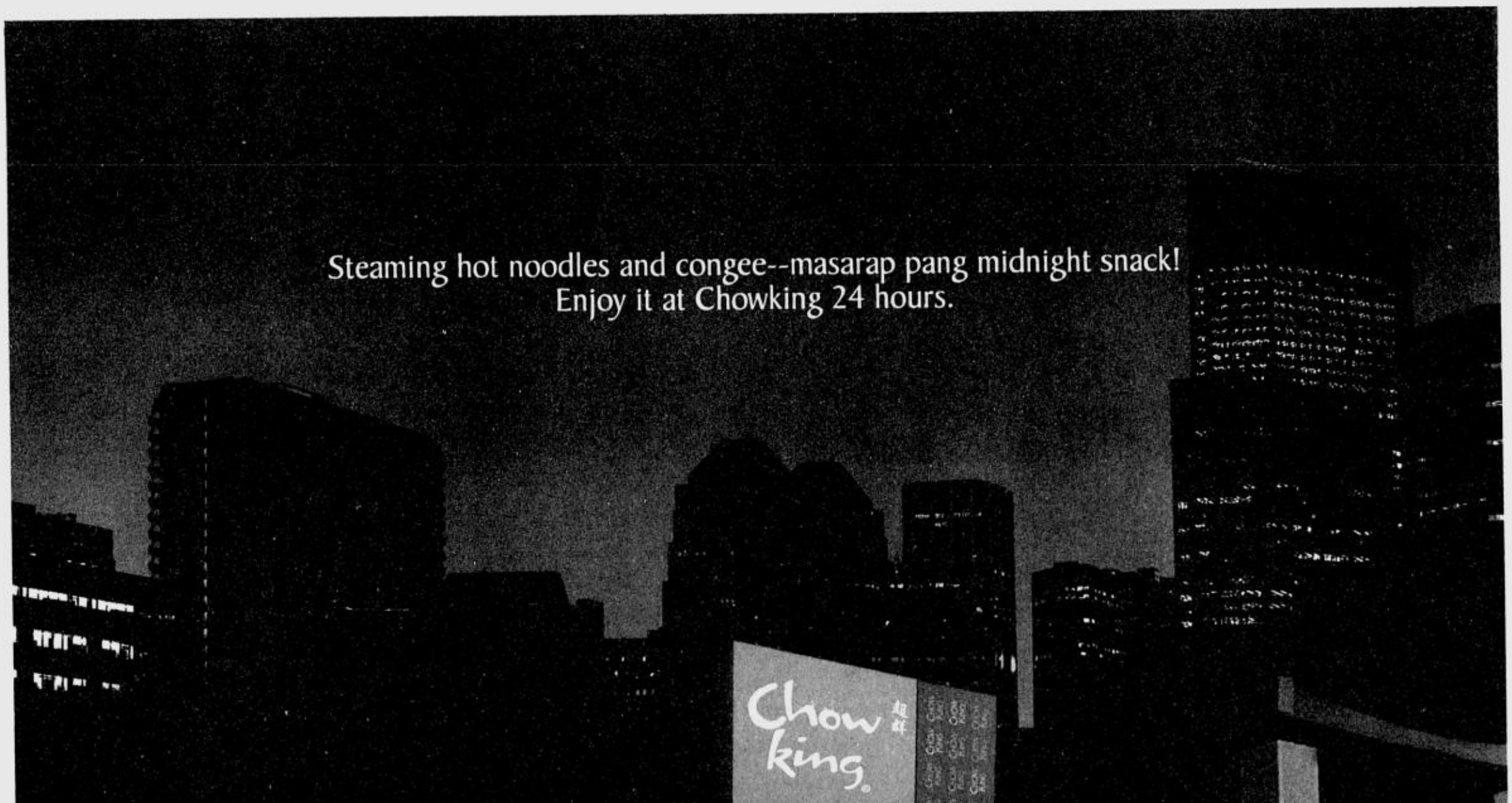
Anti-Poverty: Empowering and Engaging the Basic Sectors in Governance

This initiative seeks to empower the basic sectors and engage them to actively take part in governance. It involves a series of planning workshops among specific groups of sectoral leaders to define their respective agenda for the next 5 years under the leadership of PGMA. It shall also provide a venue for the sectors to dialogue on development issues with key agencies in government including Congress, the Judiciary and the Executive departments. As one of its major highlights, basic sector leaders will sign partnership covenants with the government, LGUs, CSOs, private sector in October 17, or the International Day to Eradicate Poverty.

Peace & Development: Governance in Peace-Building and Conflict Prevention

This initiative gives emphasis on the role of each sector in society particularly the local communities in forging and sustaining peace. It takes cognizance of the rich lessons and varied tools that can be learned from community-level practices of peace-building and conflict prevention. This initiative involves series of forums and research studies to be conducted in the regions of Cordillerra and Mindanao.

A national conference among public administration schools and practitioners tackles the roles of schools in promoting PAR; and the best practices in extending capacity building interventions to local and national government agencies



Messages

THE PHILIPPINES struggles everyday with the problem of poverty and corruption. Studies have shown that corruption directly and positively impacts on poverty. In the words of His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal: "corruption affects all of us, endangers our national life, and makes the poor poorer."

We are, thus, besieged with the question: (i)s a graft-free society still possible? An affirmative answer is, of course, the correct and inevitable one, not because a negative answer is a self-fulfilling prophecy that would cause us to do nothing, but because nothing can stand in the way of a combined public and private sector initiative bent on eradicating corruption. This is based on the accounts of citizens and organizations that battled with, and triumphed over, graft and corruption like Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Governance, Procurement Watch Inc, Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN) Foundation, Inc, G-Watch, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines and now Barug! Pilipino and the Coalition Against Corruption. Yes, a graft-free society is still possible. But only if the government will widen, to the greatest extent possible, private sector participation; and if the private sector: citizens, groups and organizations, will actively commit their talents and resources to concrete anti-corruption initiatives.

A word of caution: in this struggle against graft and corruption, it is easy to despair and, metaphorically, to see the glass as half-empty. We should realize that the glass is half-full. More importantly, we should see the water rising and the glass as filling-up.

SIMEON V. MARCELO
Tanodbayan

THE CIVIL Service Commission congratulates the 10 to 10 leaders, partners, supporters, and friends for the successful campaign-festival on governance reforms.

The participation of the CSC in this endeavor has been worthwhile. We have been able to advocate the value of meritocracy in the civil service. A de-politicized, non-patronage based and professional civil service is one of the best antidotes to corruption, which continues to be a major governance issue.

I am confident that the 10 to 10 movement has created a constituency of committed and motivated individuals from the government, civil society, and business sector who will push further the reforms towards the attainment of our national development goals.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

KARINA DAVID
Chair
Civil Service Commission

MY WARMEST regards and felicitations to the women and men behind the success of the multi-sectoral campaign on governance reform, dubbed: "10 to 10: Governance Reform Campaign-Festival." We in the Commission on Elections plunged headlong and wholeheartedly into "10 to 10" with a series of three back-to-back-to-back conferences. The Asian Conference on Democracy and Electoral Reforms, from Nov. 12 to 14, allowed the Comelec to access the wealth of best practices and innovative election solutions from throughout the Asian region, while the UNDP Global Practice Meeting on Election Systems from Nov. 15 to 18, allowed the sharing of perspectives on election administration from all over the world. And finally, from the 18th to the 21st of November, the Summit on Electoral Modernization mapped out the legislative and institutional reforms the Comelec will pursue in its modernization campaign. With the lessons learned from the 2004 National and Local Elections and the insights gained from the three conferences conducted under the aegis of "10 to 10," the Comelec now stands ready to deliver on its promise of contributing significantly to the realization of the Millenium Development Goals, through the full modernization of the Philippine electoral system by 2007.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, JR.
Chair
Commission on Elections

I AM pleased to extend my felicitations to the men and women of the "Multi-Sectoral Group of the Tapat-Palakad, Bayang Maunlad: 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma" for your active advocacy of governance reforms and nation-building initiatives with the support of the United Nations Development Program and other international development agencies.

With your initial achievements made in so short a time, I feel certain that your campaign will gain more support from all sectors of our society that will greatly contribute to the attainment of your noble goals and aspirations for our beloved Philippines.

GUILLERMO N. CARAGUE
Chair
Commission on Audit

GREETINGS to all!

On behalf of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines I wish to congratulate all of the organizations and partners of the 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma. It is indeed fitting that the culminating event of the 10 to 10 Festival coincides with the celebration of the National Human Rights Consciousness Week; from Dec. 4 to 10 as provided in Republic Act 9201 promulgated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on April 1, 2003.

We are also reminded that December 10 is International Human Rights Day marking the auspicious adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Good Governance is Human Rights." This year's theme is appropriate and relevant to the important concerns of our country today.

On this occasion the Commission reminds everyone the basic principle that Human Rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and inter-related. The Constitution also provides that the state values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights

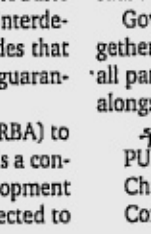
It is in this context that the Rights-Based Approach (RBA) to development and governance is being implemented. It is a conceptual framework for the process of human development based in international human rights standards and directed to promoting and protecting human rights. And...

Governance is based on the following Human Rights standards: It...

1. Identifies the root causes of poverty by providing a holistic picture of development issues;
2. Brings gender to the forefront of development;
3. Sees development as an empowering process;
4. Provides a basis to objectively assess the contribution of a particular intervention in changing the lives of the poor;
5. Provides objective standards that can be used as a guide in a dynamic process because they include guidance for "immediate" and "progressive" realization; and
6. Strengthens accountability in the development process because human rights imply human duties.

Government agencies and the civil society should work together because at the end, corruption will only be eliminated if all partners are cooperating. If government agencies will work alongside human rights, that is good governance.

PURIFICACION C. VALERA QUISUMBING
Chair
Commission on Human Rights



ON BEHALF of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the international development community led by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the various government agencies, members of civil society, business groups and professionals, media and the academe for their meaningful and enthusiastic participation in the so-called 10 to 10 Multi-Sectoral Campaign-Festival on Governance Reforms in the Philippines, from Oct. 10 to Dec. 10.

The number ten likewise extends to the number of themes carried by the Campaign Festival, covering a whole range of relevant topics critical to governance and the Millennium Development Goals: from anti-corruption to anti-poverty programs, from service delivery by government to its multiple constituencies to the prevention of crimes of violence against women. The overall theme of the Festival expresses it all: "Engaging the People and Communities: Advancing Governance Reforms Towards the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals".

For the anti-poverty theme, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) was happy to serve as the lead convenor and coordinator for the topic focused on the wider and more significant participation of the basic sectors in the nation-wide battle against poverty. We are convinced that this participation must be felt and exercised not only in the national but more and more in the local events, using both current and still-to-be designed structures and mechanisms.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

IMELDA M. NICOLAS
Secretary General
National Anti-Poverty Commission

10 to 10 Balik Tanaw

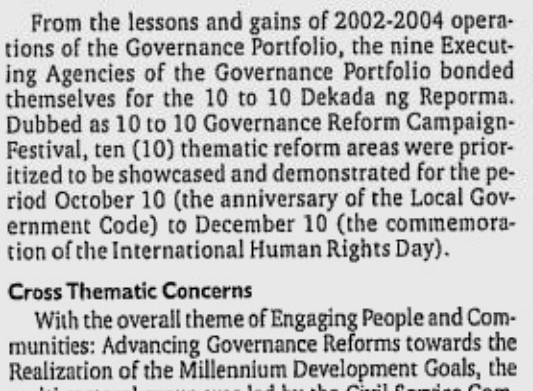
Tapat-Palakad, Bayang Maunlad
10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma

In response to chronic and massive poverty in the country, the Government of the Philippines and the United Nations Development Program established a Governance Portfolio aimed at creating an enabling environment and capacity building for good governance in the country. From 2002-2004, the Governance Portfolio embarked in different program and project initiatives that cut across all branches of government, media and civil society organizations. The initiatives focused on enhancing the processes and inter-institutional relationships among the government and civil society stakeholders for a more improved performance of their mandates and missions in public services provision to the poor, marginalized and disadvantaged.

From the lessons and gains of 2002-2004 operations of the Governance Portfolio, the nine Executing Agencies of the Governance Portfolio bonded themselves for the 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma. Dubbed as 10 to 10 Governance Reform Campaign-Festival, ten (10) thematic reform areas were prioritized to be showcased and demonstrated for the period October 10 (the anniversary of the Local Government Code) to December 10 (the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day).

Cross Thematic Concerns

With the overall theme of Engaging People and Communities: Advancing Governance Reforms towards the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals, the multi-sectoral group was led by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Interior and Local Government-Local Government Academy (DILG-LGA), Supreme Court of the Philippines (SC), Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), Office of the President, National Commission on Role of the Filipino Women (NCRFW), and Commission on Human Rights (CHR). The Private Sector, Civil Society Groups, and other Multi-stakeholders engaged in this partnership are the Task Force Participatory Local Governance (TF-PLG), Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN), Consortium for Electoral Reforms



(CER), Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD), and the Business for Integrity and Stability of Our Nation Inc (Bisyon 2020) together with other international donor agencies and the UNDP.

Ten (10) thematic areas were prioritized to serve as the agenda for the national multi-sectoral call for governance reforms that are connected with the 10-point legacy agenda of the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. The themes are: Institutionalizing Reforms in the Electoral and Political Systems; Ensuring Access to Justice by the Poor through reforms in the 5 Pillars of Justice; Graft-and-Corruption -Free Society: Making it Possible! ; Scaling up the Gains in Local Governance; People's Rights First in the Realization of MDGs; Engaging Media in Governance; Enhancing the Administration of Services Delivery; Strengthening Governance towards Environmental Sustainability; Empowering and Engaging the Basic Sectors and Communities in Governance and Governance in Peace Building and Conflict Prevention.

The 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma launched the campaign on October 12 with a celebration of the efforts and initiatives as well as the breakthroughs of innovative approaches and good governance practices. The Governance Expo, which showcased the various initiatives supported by both LGSP and UNDP strengthened DILG's role and leadership in the local governance sector. It also engaged and challenged the DILG, LGUs and the leagues to scale up and institutionalize the gains and processes in local governance. Similarly, the League of Municipalities and League of Cities identified priority policy issues. The Local Government Performance Management System (LGPMS) was launched, which is an Internet-based self-assessment system that will check the performance of local chief executives in the delivery of basic services and in management of the affairs in different localities. Likewise, replicable practices were disseminated through the distribution of replication guidelines and brochures to target users, guidebooks and linkages and support under the Good Governance Facility for Adaptation and Replication (Gofar)

Electoral and Political Reforms:

Institutionalizing Reforms in the Electoral and Political Systems

In our advocacy of Institutionalizing Reforms in Electoral and Political System, the Commission on Elections (Comelec), Consortium on Electoral Reforms (CER), and Representatives from Congress prioritized the electoral reform agenda for the 13th Congress and election reform action agenda for 2005-2010. Also resolved are the need for amending the Omnibus Election Code, implementation of the electoral modernization in time for the 2007 elections, strengthening of the political party system and the continuing conduct of citizen and voter education. Also, the Ledac Secretariat, Congressional Planning and Budget Department of the House of Representatives (CPBO), and the Senate Economic Planning Office (Sepo) gathered priority measures as a working document to formally set the House priority legislative agenda for the 13th Congress. The Consortium on Electoral Reforms (CER), Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA), and University of the Philippines-Asian Center carried out sharing of experiences among Asian countries, yielded to identification of best practices in the conduct of an election, design of an electoral system and in the advocacy of electoral reforms. This further led to the establishment of network among Asian countries to include Philippines, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, India, and Sri Lanka. Also, interactions among UNDP practitioners from country, sub-regional, regional and global levels, as well as a number of senior practitioners, academics, and partners with hands-on experience of electoral assistance, promoted understanding of the substance of UNDP's electoral assistance entry points, strategy to address policy and practical needs, approach of global programme and electoral systems and processes, capacity building for long term assistance, and innovative partnerships and research.

Justice Reforms: Ensuring Access to Justice by the Poor through Reforms in the 5 Pillars of Justice

In our advocacy of Ensuring Access to Justice by the Poor through Reforms in the 5 Pillars of Justice, the Supreme Court and the composite agencies such as Department of Justice (DOJ), Sandiganbayan (Graft Court), Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Police Commission (Napolcom), Bureau of Jails Management and Penology (BJMP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Public Attorneys Office (PAO), Office of the Solicitor General, Alternative Law Groups (ALG), Bureau of Correction (BuCor), Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), National Commission on Role of the Filipino Women (NCRFW) and others involved in the Five Pillars of Justice on law enforcement, prosecution, court system, correction and rehabilitation, and community integration focused their initiatives and perspectives on access to justice by the poor, disadvantaged, and marginalized while dispensing their mandates of administering justice for all. In order to pursue this direction, the Five Pillars resolved to re-visit and rationalize their structure, functional linkages, collaborative programs, and systems toward enhancing the delivery of mandated services that consist of best practices, policies, plan, and pact for 2005-2010 action plans and agenda. Other issues and concerns that this advocacy addressed were the development of a speedy, impartial, and accessible criminal justice system by enhancing the institutional capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of the DOJ and its attached agencies. Other measures initially identified are: to capacitate the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and communities to promote the culture of peace and the basic rights of IDPs, facilitate their easy access to justice, and strengthen the support mechanisms and institutions and emergency response and management; provide an overall framework to ensure the rights and justice for all through education for the poor, women, and children in particular.

The Law Enforcement Pillar consisting of the PNP, NBI, PDEA, Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Immigration and other specialized agencies resolved to undertake advocacy on the participation of the prosecutors and judges in the training and education of law enforcement officers, strengthening of the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee and the inclusion of other pillars of the Justice System, intensification of public information drives to boost community involvement in the peace and order campaign, strengthening of the DOJ's witness protec-

BALIK/ F7

Messages

CSO MESSAGE TO PROMOTE CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

CONGRATULATIONS to the multi-sectoral participants of the 10 to 10 Governance Reform Campaign-Festival!

We affirm the need to strengthen the partnership between government and civil society on key governance areas, including local participation, environmental protection, peace and conflict management, urban affairs, reproductive health, and information and communications technology planning. Furthermore, this strongly encourages cooperation between government and civil society in enforcing policies, programs, and projects for governance reform.

It is our firm belief that development problems, especially those affecting the vulnerable sectors, have multiple causes and require the collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders. Such efforts demand that policy making, monitoring, and implementation should be anchored on genuine participation and effective state-society partnerships.

Truly, we declare our commitment to pursue and support programs and projects geared toward the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. We also recognize the need to conduct policy research and training activities to promote human rights and good governance.

As representatives of organizations that support the rights-based approach to development, we signify our commitment to promote civil society participation in governance.

MY WARMEST greetings to the organizers and participants of the 10 to 10 Campaign Festival on Governance Reforms.

The thematic areas underscored through the various activities in this campaign, including the area on "Media Reforms: Engaging Media in Governance Reforms" are noteworthy. Indeed, your initiative to mobilize media practitioners, in strengthening their role as sources of truth and guardians of social justice, comes at an opportune moment. The advancement of a free and responsible media is essential to the promotion of professionalism in the bureaucracy, transparency and accountability in government, and enlightenment in the citizenry.

Let me therefore congratulate the men and women from the various public and private sectors, non-government organizations, and international development agencies for spearheading a unified campaign to advance governance reforms supportive of the administration's 10-point legacy program. Your efforts and sacrifices truly bespeak of your devotion to the nation, faith in our government, and confidence in our country's future.

Mabuhay tayong lahat.

SEC. RENATO S. VELASCO
Director-General
Philippine Information Agency

AS PARTNER and participating lead organization in the 10 to 10 "Dekada ng Reporma", the Business for Integrity and Stability of Our Nation (Bisyon 2020) wishes to thank the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for sponsoring this much-needed multi-sectoral campaign festival on governance reform in the Philippines.

Good governance is the single driving force of business and government alike. Good governance is learned from within, a product of well-entrenched values hewn from various environments, principally those learned from family and home.

In business and finance, particularly in undertaking key management decisions, we are taught not to take risks unless the rewards are commensurate with the risks. This promotes rational behavior and efficient use of a company's valuable but limited resources.

In our country, corruption is unfortunately prevalent ... but this is not a problem of the Philippines alone. Corruption is present in both developed and developing economies alike, in varying degrees. What is key, however, is the political will of a country's leadership to curb corruption and undertake the reforms, however difficult and unpopular.

Multi-sectoral programs such as the 10 to 10 "Dekada ng Reporma" reinforces the need for the importance of translating the values handed down through generations into effective leadership and selfless service to our country.

Again, we thank the UNDP for its supportive role in bringing to the fore its goal to ignite the fire of change and reform in the various sectors of Philippine society.

DAVID BALANGUE
Vice Chairman, Bisyon 2020
Chairman and Managing Partner, SGV & Co.
President, Management Association of the Phis.
Incoming President 2005, Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

GREETINGS of Hope, Peace and Love!

Thank you and congratulations to all who have actively participated and contributed to the success of the 10 to 10 Governance Reforms Campaign-Festival. Together we have made many things possible: expansion of our circles of influence, recognition of new best practices, and creation of new approaches to partnership and collaboration towards governance reforms.

We need not conduct a survey to know the fondest dream of all Filipinos. We have more similarities than differences. We have common desires to attain our full potentials, make meaningful contribution to society, and have a great future for the country. These dreams have brought us together in this 10 to 10 campaign-festival. Ever since we started working together, we have developed a deep sense of mutual respect and admiration for our respective ideas and actions and, most important, we are now clear on what we can and will do together in the next five years.

Let us continue to include, engage and inspire more people, organizations and communities to get involved in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

MARY ANN Z. FERNANDEZ-MENDOZA
10 to 10 Chair

10 to 10 Movers

GOVERNMENT Agencies: Civil Service Commission (Chair), Dept. of Interior and Local Governments (Co-Chair), Supreme Court of the Philippines, Office of the Ombudsman, Department of Budget and Management, Commission for Human Rights, National Economic and Development Authority, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Development Academy of the Philippines, National Comm. on Role of the Filipino Women, Office of the President, CSO & Private Sector: Task Force Participatory Local Governance, Business for Integrity and Stability of Our Nation Federation Inc. (Bisyon 2020) Transparency and Accountability Network, Consortium for Electoral Reform, Center for Community Journalism and Development, International Development Agencies Support Group, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Local Government Support Programme-CIDA (LGSP-CIDA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid), United States Agency for International Development (USAid), The Asia Foundation United Nations Habitat (UN-Habitat), United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), United Nations Population Fund (Unfpa), United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem), United Nations HIV/AIDS (Unaids), United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRC), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Frederich Ebert Stifrung (FES), British Council, European Commission (EC), Swiss Embassy, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OH-CHR).

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5 pillars of justice cluster local governance cluster

Supreme Court of the Philippines (SC), Department of

MOVERS/ F6

Covenant for the 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma

IN RESPONSE to the prevailing issues of governance which impede development of the country such as poverty, environmental degradation, graft and corruption, poor access to justice by the marginalized, inadequate participatory electoral and political mechanisms, underutilized local government capacity, insufficient bureaucratic policies, reforms, and systems to make government more responsive, we, the 10 to 10 Movers of Governance Reform Campaign Festival, dedicate and commit ourselves to a Rights-Based Governance Reforms from 2005 - 2010 that will institutionalize accountability, non-discrimination, broad representation and participation of women and men in governance along the following thematic concerns:

1. On Institutionalizing Reforms in the Electoral and Political Systems

To engage all sectors for the development of a unifying framework and institutional support measures and mechanisms geared towards the implementation of an honest, credible, transparent; modernized election system in 2005 - 2010 both at local and national levels;

To carry out immediate electoral reforms by carrying out electoral modernization; strengthening the political party system; and pursuing legislative amendments or actions in relation to the Omnibus Election Code and other election-related bills; and

To carry out a comprehensive citizen-voter education for the exercise of the people's right of suffrage and meaningful participation in various political processes, with special attention to the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged towards achieving political legitimacy, acceptability and accountability in the country as imperative in attaining strong, stable and functioning democracy.

2. On Ensuring Access to Justice by the Poor through Reforms in the 5 Pillars of Justice

To strengthen collaboration and partnership among the five (5) Pillars of the Criminal Justice System covering enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, correctional, and community integration towards more responsive, rights based, and gender sensitive administration of justice for all;

For the Law Enforcement Pillar to undertake advocacy on the participation of the prosecutors and judges in the training and education of law enforcement officers, to strengthen the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee and the inclusion of other pillars of the Justice System, to intensify public information which drives to boost community involvement in the peace and order campaign, to strengthen the DOJ's witness protection program, integration and automation of nationwide crime reporting system, and to formulate legislative reforms affecting the criminal justice system by amending some provisions of the charters of the agencies concerned;

For the Prosecution Pillar to resolve, among others, the enhancement of the prosecutors' knowledge on new laws specially for the vulnerable sectors, have a continuing dialogue between the pillar and the community, strengthening the task force on women and children, implement continuing legal education specifically on laws on women, human rights, gender sensitivity and the rights-based approach;

For the Court Pillar to further develop their ongoing judicial reform focused on establishing more effective, efficient, and inexpensive delivery of justice; to have more avenues and venues for knowledge and information sharing about best practices in the court pillar; and to reinvent and re-engineer their attitudes by taking a closer look at the needs of the public which they serve;

For the Correction Pillar to undertake initiatives such as the institutional advocacy of rehabilitation as against the perception on punitive approach, formulation of correctional standards in the treatment of all prisoners from municipal, city, district, provincial and national correction facilities, improving cooperation programs and linkages with institutions involved in the correction pillar, advocacy of the agenda for rendering of community service in lieu of incarceration and. adoption of management information system among agencies;

For the Community Pillar to commit on the enhancement of the access to justice by the poor through the strengthening of network among civil society organizations, private sector and the government, educating media on proper decorum in the handling of sensitive cases that is gender and rights-based, reactivation of the National Crime Information System and institutionalization of gender sensitivity training;

To end the climate of impunity and the chain of violence through reforms founded on the principles of restorative justice by abolishing the death penalty law and ratification of the 2nd Optional Protocol on Civil and political rights;

To establish a "truth commission" and prioritizing bills on torture, enforced/involuntary disappearance, indemnification to victims of human rights violation and proposals on anti-discrimination; and

To establish operational mechanisms for seeking justiceability of economic, social and cultural rights; and to improve access to justice by the poor, marginalized and disadvantaged arising from poverty, human rights abuses and exclusion or marginalization of these sectors in the whole gamut of governance towards realization of peace, human rights and development in the country.

3. On Graft - and Corruption - Free Society, Making it Possible!

To commit to the improvement of the plight of the poor, disadvantaged, and marginalized by making possible a Graft-and Corruption-Free Society through: institutionalization of the Framework on Anti-Corruption and effective mechanisms for transparency on all government transactions; continuous effort on developing civil society's capacity to fight graft and corruption; and, implementation of the Office of the Ombudsman's Medium-Term Anti-Corruption Plan (2004-2008), among others, to combat corruption and restore the integrity, transparency and accountability of various governance functions and processes, which have been eroded by corrupt practices resulting to staggering and alarming losses in terms of undelivered basic services and programs; and

To further strengthen the partnership between government, private sector, and local communities in combating graft and corruption, the Bisyon 2020 commits the pursuit and advancing the 2020 agenda and commitments through resource mobilization and close collaboration with government and civil society in the following: marshalling resources to encourage, support, and protect anti-corruption crusaders, whistle-blowers, witnesses, and victims of corruption; strengthening government and private sector partnerships with local community organizations at the lowest grassroots level possible; ensuring proper compliance with Code of Ethics, laws, rules and regulations; eliminating bribery and extortion as "standard procedures" in business practices; committing resources to ensure judicial investigation, prosecution, and conviction; initiating and engaging in a comprehensive education campaign versus corruption; empowering the citizenry through intensive and extensive anti-corruption Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) program, enhancing corruption prevention programs; strongly endorsing presidential certification of anti-corruption bills as urgent; and lobbying for anti-corruption legislative agenda.

4. On Scaling up the Gains in Local Governance

To scale up and institutionalize the gains and processes in local governance by engaging LGUs to adopt the rights-framework to sustainable development and excellence in local governance, disseminate and replicate exemplary practices;

To localize and mainstream Millennium Development Goals and Gender and Development initiatives; and, implement the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS) towards fostering an enabling policy environment in enhancing good governance through local initiatives, resource generation and mobilization, and capacity development; and, instituting inter-governmental relations among the LGUs and between the LGU and national government; and

To engage individuals and communities in pursuing participatory local development and in building a culture of peace and transforming conflict.

5. On People's Rights First in the Realization of MDGs

To institute the development of human rights' culture and gender sensitivity in government, private sector and civil society through the implementation of the constitutional provisions on the establishment of a continuing human rights education in schools and implementation of Presidential directives on the mandatory human rights education for the police and military personnel; and

To mainstream human rights and gender along with the Millennium Development Goals through the adoption of Rights-Based Approach in planning, budgeting and implementation through legislation both at the local and national levels. And to work out with development agencies, people's organizations, non-governmental organizations, local development councils and local government units in the operationalization and application of human rights standards in the delivery and management of services and programs especially for the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized sectors of society.

6. On Engaging Media in Governance

To develop strategies and mechanisms for the active and effective participation of media in governance reforms towards a more transparent, accountable, and participatory governance in the country and implementation of measures for sustaining media participation network and developing mechanisms at the national and local levels to include citizen engagement in governance.

7. On Enhancing the Administration of Service Delivery

To engage the system of government into a process of review, enhancement and institutionalization of reforms in policies, plans, programs and systems designed to strengthen the capacity and responsiveness of government, especially those in the front line, in delivering the much-needed efficiency and effectiveness in the public service delivery improvement program of social and economic services; and

To ensure equity and improvement of people's quality of life that would allow more opportunities for the poor and marginalized for more access to productive resources and basic services of government for the realization of the MDGs, improvement of level of enjoyment of peoples' human rights, enhancement of gender sensitivity in media and governance, and attainment of peace and development in the country.

8. On Strengthening Governance towards Environmental Sustainability

To develop local environmental and sound ecological programs in harmony with the local government's plans on pursuing the preservation of the quality of the environment though enactment of new laws and codes to ensure the conservation, development and exploration of natural resources based on the principles of sustainable development and respect for ancestral domain; and

To engage local communities in managing natural resources through the establishment of people's organizations and networks to undertake all possible initiatives and measures for the protection and enrichment of the environment for use of present and future generations.

9. On Empowering & Engaging the Basic Sectors in Governance

To pursue and support the rights and gender based agenda for the basic sectors' agenda and further develop the poverty reduction strategies, policies, programs, and mechanisms designed for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets on poverty, education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, environment, and global partnership for development; and to empower basic sectors for improved self-reliance and participation in democratic governance, to participatory governance, social equity, social capital formation, and greater access to productive assets particularly microfinance and livelihood technology for total unleashing of their potentials and contributions to achieving better quality of life and human development.

10. On Governance in Peace-Building and Conflict Prevention

To develop and implement strategies and mechanisms that will involve participation of and unify the local communities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders working for and sustaining a peaceful community by utilizing various instruments and interventions on peace-building and conflict prevention; and

To adopt an "all-out peace" policy in dealing with all armed political groups under the principles set in the International Humanitarian laws; push for the enactment of laws for the protection of internally displaced persons and communities in accordance with the international standards.

We, the movers of the 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma from government the civil society organizations, media, the private sector, and the international development community agree with the aforementioned covenant in advancing good governance, human rights, peace and human development in the country hereby affix our signature as a manifestation of our commitment to the reform movement on the occasion of the Human Rights Festival on this 8th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

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Messages

GSO MESSAGE TO PROMOTE CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

CONGRATULATIONS to the multi-sectoral participants of the 10 to 10 Governance Reform Campaign-Festival!

We affirm the need to strengthen the partnership between government and civil society on key governance areas, including local participation, environmental protection, peace and conflict management, urban affairs, reproductive health, and information and communications technology planning. Furthermore, this strongly encourages cooperation between government and civil society in enforcing policies, programs, and projects for governance reform.

It is our firm belief that development problems, especially those affecting the vulnerable sectors, have multiple causes and require the collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders. Such efforts demand that policy making, monitoring, and implementation should be anchored on genuine participation and effective state-society partnerships.

Truly, we declare our commitment to pursue and support programs and projects geared toward the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. We also recognize the need to conduct policy research and training activities to promote human rights and good governance.

As representatives of organizations that support the rights-based approach to development, we signify our commitment to promote civil society participation in governance.

MY WARMEST greetings to the organizers and participants of the 10 to 10 Campaign Festival on Governance Reforms.

The thematic areas underscored through the various activities in this campaign, including the area on "Media Reforms: Engaging Media in Governance Reforms" are noteworthy. Indeed, your initiative to mobilize media practitioners, in strengthening their role as sources of truth and guardians of social justice, comes at an opportune moment. The advancement of a free and responsible media is essential to the promotion of professionalism in the bureaucracy, transparency and accountability in government, and enlightenment in the citizenry.

Let me therefore congratulate the men and women from the various public and private sectors, non-government organizations, and international development agencies for spearheading a unified campaign to advance governance reforms supportive of the administration's 10-point legacy program. Your efforts and sacrifices truly bespeak of your devotion to the nation, faith in our government, and confidence in our country's future.

Mabuhay tayong lahat.

SEC. RENATO S. VELASCO
Director-General
Philippine Information Agency

AS PARTNER and participating lead organization in the 10 to 10 "Dekada ng Reporma", the Business for Integrity and Stability of Our Nation (Bisyon 2020) wishes to thank the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for sponsoring this much-needed multi-sectoral campaign festival on governance reform in the Philippines.

Good governance is the single driving force of business and government alike. Good governance is learned from within, a product of well-entrenched values hewn from various environments, principally those learned from family and home.

In business and finance, particularly in undertaking key management decisions, we are taught not to take risks unless the rewards are commensurate with the risks. This promotes rational behavior and efficient use of a company's valuable but limited resources.

In our country, corruption is unfortunately prevalent ... but this is not a problem of the Philippines alone. Corruption is present in both developed and developing economies alike, in varying degrees. What is key, however, is the political will of a country's leadership to curb corruption and undertake the reforms, however difficult and unpopular.

Multi-sectoral programs such as the 10 to 10 "Dekada ng Reporma" reinforces the need for the importance of translating the values handed down through generations into effective leadership and selfless service to our country.

Again, we thank the UNDP for its supportive role in bringing to the fore its goal to ignite the fire of change and reform in the various sectors of Philippine society.

DAVID BALANGUE
Vice Chairman, Bisyon 2020
Chairman and Managing Partner, SGV & Co.
President, Management Association of the Phis.
Incoming President 2005, Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

GREETINGS of Hope, Peace and Love!

Thank you and congratulations to all who have actively participated and contributed to the success of the 10 to 10 Governance Reforms Campaign-Festival. Together we have made many things possible: expansion of our circles of influence, recognition of new best practices, and creation of new approaches to partnership and collaboration towards governance reforms.

We need not conduct a survey to know the fondest dream of all Filipinos. We have more similarities than differences. We have common desires to attain our full potentials, make meaningful contribution to society, and have a great future for the country. These dreams have brought us together in this 10 to 10 campaign-festival. Ever since we started working together, we have developed a deep sense of mutual respect and admiration for our respective ideas and actions and, most important, we are now clear on what we can and will do together in the next five years.

Let us continue to include, engage and inspire more people, organizations and communities to get involved in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

MARY ANN Z. FERNANDEZ-MENDOZA
10 to 10 Chair

10 to 10 Movers

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To engage individuals and communities in pursuing participatory local development and in building a culture of peace and transforming conflict.

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To institute the development of human rights' culture and gender sensitivity in government, private sector and civil society through the implementation of the constitutional provisions on the establishment of a continuing human rights education in schools and implementation of Presidential directives on the mandatory human rights education for the police and military personnel; and

To mainstream human rights and gender along with the Millennium Development Goals through the adoption of Rights-Based Approach in planning, budgeting and implementation through legislation both at the local and national levels. And to work out with development agencies, people's organizations, non-governmental organizations, local development councils and local government units in the operationalization and application of human rights standards in the delivery and management of services and programs especially for the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized sectors of society.

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8. On Strengthening Governance towards Environmental Sustainability

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To engage local communities in managing natural resources through the establishment of people's organizations and networks to undertake all possible initiatives and measures for the protection and enrichment of the environment for use of present and future generations.

9. On Empowering & Engaging the Basic Sectors in Governance

To pursue and support the rights and gender based agenda for the basic sectors' agenda and further develop the poverty reduction strategies, policies, programs, and mechanisms designed for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets on poverty, education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, environment, and global partnership for development; and to empower basic sectors for improved self-reliance and participation in democratic governance, to participatory governance, social equity, social capital formation, and greater access to productive assets particularly microfinance and livelihood technology for total unleashing of their potentials and contributions to achieving better quality of life and human development.

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To adopt an "all-out peace" policy in dealing with all armed political groups under the principles set in the International Humanitarian laws; push for the enactment of laws for the protection of internally displaced persons and communities in accordance with the international standards.

We, the movers of the 10 to 10 Dekada ng Reporma from government the civil society organizations, media, the private sector, and the international development community agree with the aforementioned covenant in advancing good governance, human rights, peace and human development in the country hereby affix our signature as a manifestation of our commitment to the reform movement on the occasion of the Human Rights Festival on this 8th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO: 2004 - 152
TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND OTHERS CONCERNED
SUBJECT : GUIDE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE LOCALIZATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPENT GOALS

I. BACKGROUND

In September 2000, the United Nations General Assembly concluded the Millennium Summit with the adoption of the Millennium Declaration renewing global commitment to peace and human rights and setting specific goals and targets toward reducing poverty and the worst forms of human deprivation. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), set within 2015, affirm and reinforce the agreements on the goals and targets toward eliminating extreme poverty worldwide.

Along with all other countries, the Philippines committed to pursue all efforts to attain certain benchmarks in improving human life. These commitments are embodied in the eight key goals in the MDGs. Since 2000, the Philippines has sought to attain these goals through its medium-term development plans. The eight MDGs are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
2. Achieve universal primary education,
3. Promote gender equality and empower women,
4. Reduce child mortality,
5. Improve maternal health,
6. Combat HIVs/AIDs, malaria and other infectious deceases,
7. Ensure environmental sustainability, and
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Meeting the requirements of the MDGs will entail collaborative efforts of major stakeholders - the national and local government units (LGUs) as well as the private sector through related interventions geared toward mainstreaming the MDGs in the local development agenda.

II. LOCALIZING THE MDGs

Goals 1 to 7 are local government unit mandates, pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government Code on the promotion of public health and safety, enhancement of people's right to a balanced ecology, enhancement of economic prosperity and social justice, promotion of full employment among the residents, maintenance of peace and order and preservation of the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants, among others. MDG 8 transcends the national borders and refers to global partnerships for development.

A. A Poverty Focused Plan and Budget

In view of these, LGUs are encouraged to intensify efforts in the implementation of programs, projects and activities (PPAs) toward the achievement of the MDGs. LGUs are expected to increase their budgetary allocations for basic social services responsive to MDGs.

Below are several options to guide LGUs in responding to MDGs:

MDGs and Targets LGU Options to Address MDGs

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Targets:1. Reduce by 50% the number of people living in extreme poverty between 1990-20152. Reduce by 50% the number of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption and reduce by 50% the number of underweight children (under five years old)3. Reduce by 50% the number of people with no access to safe drinking water or those who cannot afford it by 2015 · Provision of livelihood and employment opportunities for marginalized group through community enterprise and skills training.· Assist the poor farmers and small producers in the processing and marketing of their products· Provision of basic training on household food security such as home gardening, backyard livestock industry and inland fishing; and provision of support services, e.g. seeds, credit, etc.· Construction/installation of solar dyer, multi-purpose pavement, post harvest facilities, food processing, rice and corn mills, warehouses· Construction/maintenance of public access such as roads, farm to market roads, foot bridge/bridge· Provision of farm equipment, supplies and other farm inputs· Provision of safe drinking water by installing low cost water supply like hand-pumps, gravity fed systems, rain water collection, shallow/deep/artesian tube wells and constructing of infrastructures for potable water system· Development/construction of low cost sanitation facilities like ventilated improved pit privy (VIP) and other latrines · Provision of basic hygiene education and training for households· Promotion and enforcement of food fortification law and ASIN Law · Sustenance of supplementary feeding and "Operation Timbang"

MDGs and Targets LGU Options to Address MDGs

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target:Achieve universal access to primary education by 2015 · Construction/rehabilitation of school facilities such as school buildings with toilets and water supply, clinics, public libraries, basic science laboratory rooms · Construction and maintenance of access roads going to schools· Construction/maintenance of day care centers and pre-school institutions· Purchase of books, desks and other school equipments· Implementation of school-based nutrition programs such as School Milk Project, National Feeding Program, Breakfast Feeding Program, and Dental Health Program· Provision of day care center teachers/workers and instructional materials (ECCD Law)· Promotion of Early Childhood Care Development (ECCD)/Bright Child Program in all day care centers· Provision of transport assistance for school children in geographically hard to reach areas

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and all levels of education not later than 2015 · Allocation of 5% LGU budget for gender and development programs/projects/activities (PPAs) addressing MDGs · Provisions of livelihood for marginalized women· Establishment of Women's Desk· Conduct of livelihood and vocational training activities for women· Full implementation and enforcement of laws on violence against women and children· Promotion of equal access of women and men to training and employment opportunities· Ensure participation of women in local special bodies (LSBs)

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Target:Reduce children under-five mortality rate by 67% by 2015 · Immunization of all children against tuberculosis, diphtheria pertussis, tetanus, measles and Hepatitis B before reaching 1 year old· Provision of one dose Vitamin A o once a year to all children 6-11 months o at least twice a year to all children 1-5 years old· Promotion of exclusive Breast Feeding up to 6 months and continues breast feeding up to 2 years· Promotion of new-born screening for congenital metabolic disorders· Provision of iron supplements for low-birth weight infants and anemic children

MDGs and Targets LGU Options to Address MDGs

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality (continued ...)

· Mandatory weighing of children 0-71 months to monitor growth and nutritional status according to the following schedule:þ all 0-24 months old children years old once a monthþ all 0-71 months children whose weights are below normal once a monthþ all 25-71 months old children quarterlyþ all 0-71 months old children twice a year· Sustenance of supplementary feeding programs and "Operation Timbang"/growth monitoring (i.e. weighing scales, weight-for-age table, ECCD card)· Promotion of complementary feeding of lugaw and other nutritious food (GO, GROW and GLOW foods) for all children starting 6 mos. old · Provision of de-worming drugs among 2-5 years old children twice a year· Implementation of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) in all health facilities and provision of essential drugs for IMCI· Provision of training for parents on food production, food preparation, food fortification and basic nutrition, and proper care for children · Provision of infrastructure facilities such as health centers, day care centers, primary/secondary health care centers

Goal 5: Improved Women's Reproductive Health

Targets: 1. Reduce maternal mortality rate by 75% by 20152. Increase access to reproductive health services to 60% by 2005, 80% by 2010 & 100% by 2015 · Conduct of advocacy and other related services on the following reproductive health (RH) elements: Ø Family Planning (FP)q All method including voluntary sterilization service (VSS) be made available to all men and women of reproductive ageq Establishment of functional Community Based Management Information System (CBMIS) for family planning and other RH servicesq Provision of family planning education, counseling, services including VSS and contraceptives for both men and women of reproductive age q Ensure adequate supply of contraceptive commodity for current users and new acceptorsq Resolution on the adoption and implementation of Contraceptive Self Reliance (CSR) on Family Planningq Promotion of and education on shared parenting responsibilitiesØ Maternal Child Health and Nutritionq Provision of comprehensive pre-natal, natal and post-natal care for all pregnant womenq Provision of iron tablets and vitamin A capsules for pregnant and lactating mothers q Establishment/upgrading primary hospitals, maternal clinics and other health facilities to provide obstetric careq Increase access to basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric careq Promotion of facility based delivery among pregnant womenq Supplemental feeding for malnourished pregnant womenØ Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC)q Provision of medical, legal, psychological services to victim-survivorsq Protection and re-integration of victims-survivors of violence against women and childrenq Ensure the participation of the community in preventing VAWC and protection of VAWC victim-survivorsq Provision of counseling services to perpetrators of VAWCØ Men's Reproductive Healthq Increase male involvement in reproductive health activitiesØ Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH)q Massive education on fertility, responsible sexuality and healthy development including healthy lifestyle through formal education or outreach activity for young peopleq Educate parents on fertility, sexuality and RH and mobilize them for the provision of information to young peopleq Provision of health services and counselingØ Education and Counselling on Sexuality and Sexual Educationq Conduct of fertility awareness campaign and responsible parenthoodØ Prevention and Treatment of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs)/STD/HIV/AIDSØ Breast and Reproductive Tract Cancersq Provision of breast and cancer prevention and treatment services (e.g. acetic acid wash, papsmear, screening, referral) in selected RHU facilitiesØ Prevention and Management of Abortion and its Complicationsq Counseling services incorporated in Family Planning· Development of capabilities of health workers in the areas of maternal care, childbirth, family planning PMAC, VAWC, ARH and other health care services

MDGs and Targets LGU Options to Address MDGs

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Targets:1. Prevent the spread and halt HIV/AIDs by 20152. Reduce the incidence of malaria and other major infectious diseases and halt by 2015 · Massive information campaign/social mobilization on values-based sexuality education, AIDS/dangers of AIDS, how to prevent AIDS· Promotion and provision of AIDs prevention services such as counseling, and STI/HIV/AIDs management in health facilities · Establishment of behavioral·surveillance system on STI/HIV/AIDs infected persons· Procurement of drugs and other logistic support for STI/HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and other diseases· Provide necessary health services and treatment for the vulnerable groups against STI/HIV/AIDs, malaria, TB and other diseases· Establishment and strengthening of "TB Network"· Implementation of comprehensive cleanliness program such de-clogging and maintenance of canals, etc.· Encourage full support of private sector especially owners of bars/nightclubs/hotels and other related establishments to participate in education and awareness of sex workers

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Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Targets:1. Implement national strategies for sustainable development by 2005 and to reverse loss of environmental resources by 20152. Achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers · Rehabilitate, protect and maintain community watershed areas in collaboration with other agencies· Enforcement of forest laws, rules and regulations in community watershed communal forest and other devolved areas· Implementation of devolved community-based forestry management project which includes integrated social forestry in communal forest· Establishment of parks, greenbelt and other similar forest development projects· Protection of Integrated Protected Area System · Formulation/implementation of 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan· Establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) in every barangay or cluster of barangays· Encourage private sector participation to:Ø initiate, participate, and invest in ecological solid waste management projectsØ manufacture environment friendly productsØ undertake community activities to promote effective solid waste management· Closure and/or conversion of open dumpsite into controlled dumpsite, and eventual establishment of sanitary land fill· Massive info campaign on solid waste management· Formulation/implementation of comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs) and enforcement of zoning ordinances (ZOs)· Provision of sites for socialized housing purposes· Conduct of inventory for beneficiaries of socialized housing projects · Provide livelihood facilities and initiate community organizing activities in relocation sites · Implement "Gawad Kalinga" type and other housing projects

B. LOCAL POVERTY DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING

In order to determine the appropriate interventions and to focus target beneficiary, it is important to know the nature and extent of poverty in a particular locality. Local government units may use existing information that can be generated from the following monitoring instruments such as:

1. Local Government Performance Measurement System (LGPMS),
2. Minimum Basic Needs-Community Based Poverty Indicator System (MBN-CBIS), and Community Based Poverty Indicator and Monitoring System (MBN-CBPIMS),
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LGUs may also diagnose their situation using the Core Local Poverty Indicators Monitoring System (CLPIMS). These are the set of carefully selected human development and income-based indicators dedicated to diagnose and monitor poverty situation which was adopted during the 7th En Banc Meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission through En Banc Resolution No. 7. and disseminated at the local levels through DILG Memorandum Circular 2003-92 on April 2003. An additional indicator on maternal health was included to harmonize the CLPI with the MDGs.

Below are the (13 CLPI +1) indicators that may be used to assess LGU situation and gather baseline information to institute measures to help meet the country's MDGs by 2015:

MDG Core Local Poverty Indicators (CLPIs)

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger · Proportion of households with income less than the poverty threshold

· Proportion of households with income less than the food threshold

· Proportion of persons aged 15 years old and above who are not working but are actively seeking work

· Proportion of children 0-5 years old who are moderately and severely underweight (below normal-low and below normal-very low)

· Proportion of households who eat less than three full meals a day

· Proportion of household members victimized by crime

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education · Proportion of 6-12 year-old children who are not in elementary school

· Proportion of 13-16 year-olds who are not in secondary school

Goal 3: Promote gender equality (can be generated from indicators Goal 2 since data are gender disaggregated)

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality · Proportion of children under five years old who died

Goal 5: Improve maternal health · Proportion of women who died due to pregnancy related causes

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases · Proportion of households without access to safe water

· Proportion of households without sanitary toilets

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability · Proportion of households who are squatters

· Proportion of households with makeshift housing

C. IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH REPLICATION OF GOOD PRACTICES RESPONSIVE TO MDGs

A number of LGUs have already demonstrated good local governance practices specifically in trying to address MDG concerns. These LGUs use their innovative and indigenous mechanisms to provide basic social services.

In view of this, LGUs are encouraged to replicate the exemplary practices of other LGUs with good practices in responding to the needs of the local communities and in response to the millennium development goals.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DILG

The Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) and DILG Regional Offices are directed to spearhead the advocacy of the localization of the MDGs, and institute tools and mechanisms for the localization and monitoring of LGU responses.

The DILG Regional and Provincial Offices shall spearhead the advocacy on the MDG at the local government units within their respective jurisdictions, and provide the necessary assistance on the implementation of this Circular.

DILG Regional Offices are also directed to update the Office of the SILG, through the BLGD on the status of the localization of MDG and LGU compliance to this Circular.

For the guidance and compliance of all concerned

ANGELO T. REYES
Secretary

10 to 10 Movers

From page F5

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Human rights and gender cluster public administration reform cluster

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO: 2004 - 152
TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND OTHERS CONCERNED
SUBJECT : GUIDE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE LOCALIZATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPENT GOALS

I. BACKGROUND

In September 2000, the United Nations General Assembly concluded the Millennium Summit with the adoption of the Millennium Declaration renewing global commitment to peace and human rights and setting specific goals and targets toward reducing poverty and the worst forms of human deprivation. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), set within 2015, affirm and reinforce the agreements on the goals and targets toward eliminating extreme poverty worldwide.

Along with all other countries, the Philippines committed to pursue all efforts to attain certain benchmarks in improving human life. These commitments are embodied in the eight key goals in the MDGs. Since 2000, the Philippines has sought to attain these goals through its medium-term development plans. The eight MDGs are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
2. Achieve universal primary education,
3. Promote gender equality and empower women,
4. Reduce child mortality,
5. Improve maternal health,
6. Combat HIVs/AIDs, malaria and other infectious deceases,
7. Ensure environmental sustainability, and
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Meeting the requirements of the MDGs will entail collaborative efforts of major stakeholders - the national and local government units (LGUs) as well as the private sector through related interventions geared toward mainstreaming the MDGs in the local development agenda.

II. LOCALIZING THE MDGs

Goals 1 to 7 are local government unit mandates, pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government Code on the promotion of public health and safety, enhancement of people's right to a balanced ecology, enhancement of economic prosperity and social justice, promotion of full employment among the residents, maintenance of peace and order and preservation of the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants, among others. MDG 8 transcends the national borders and refers to global partnerships for development.

A. A Poverty Focused Plan and Budget

In view of these, LGUs are encouraged to intensify efforts in the implementation of programs, projects and activities (PPAs) toward the achievement of the MDGs. LGUs are expected to increase their budgetary allocations for basic social services responsive to MDGs.

Below are several options to guide LGUs in responding to MDGs:

MDGs and Targets LGU Options to Address MDGs

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Targets:1. Reduce by 50% the number of people living in extreme poverty between 1990-20152. Reduce by 50% the number of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption and reduce by 50% the number of underweight children (under five years old)3. Reduce by 50% the number of people with no access to safe drinking water or those who cannot afford it by 2015 · Provision of livelihood and employment opportunities for marginalized group through community enterprise and skills training.· Assist the poor farmers and small producers in the processing and marketing of their products· Provision of basic training on household food security such as home gardening, backyard livestock industry and inland fishing; and provision of support services, e.g. seeds, credit, etc.· Construction/installation of solar dyer, multi-purpose pavement, post harvest facilities, food processing, rice and corn mills, warehouses· Construction/maintenance of public access such as roads, farm to market roads, foot bridge/bridge· Provision of farm equipment, supplies and other farm inputs· Provision of safe drinking water by installing low cost water supply like hand-pumps, gravity fed systems, rain water collection, shallow/deep/artesian tube wells and constructing of infrastructures for potable water system· Development/construction of low cost sanitation facilities like ventilated improved pit privy (VIP) and other latrines · Provision of basic hygiene education and training for households· Promotion and enforcement of food fortification law and ASIN Law · Sustenance of supplementary feeding and "Operation Timbang"

MDGs and Targets LGU Options to Address MDGs

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target:Achieve universal access to primary education by 2015 · Construction/rehabilitation of school facilities such as school buildings with toilets and water supply, clinics, public libraries, basic science laboratory rooms · Construction and maintenance of access roads going to schools· Construction/maintenance of day care centers and pre-school institutions· Purchase of books, desks and other school equipments· Implementation of school-based nutrition programs such as School Milk Project, National Feeding Program, Breakfast Feeding Program, and Dental Health Program· Provision of day care center teachers/workers and instructional materials (ECCD Law)· Promotion of Early Childhood Care Development (ECCD)/Bright Child Program in all day care centers· Provision of transport assistance for school children in geographically hard to reach areas

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and all levels of education not later than 2015 · Allocation of 5% LGU budget for gender and development programs/projects/activities (PPAs) addressing MDGs · Provisions of livelihood for marginalized women· Establishment of Women's Desk· Conduct of livelihood and vocational training activities for women· Full implementation and enforcement of laws on violence against women and children· Promotion of equal access of women and men to training and employment opportunities· Ensure participation of women in local special bodies (LSBs)

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Target:Reduce children under-five mortality rate by 67% by 2015 · Immunization of all children against tuberculosis, diphtheria pertussis, tetanus, measles and Hepatitis B before reaching 1 year old· Provision of one dose Vitamin A o once a year to all children 6-11 months o at least twice a year to all children 1-5 years old· Promotion of exclusive Breast Feeding up to 6 months and continues breast feeding up to 2 years· Promotion of new-born screening for congenital metabolic disorders· Provision of iron supplements for low-birth weight infants and anemic children

MDGs and Targets LGU Options to Address MDGs

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality (continued ...)

· Mandatory weighing of children 0-71 months to monitor growth and nutritional status according to the following schedule:þ all 0-24 months old children years old once a monthþ all 0-71 months children whose weights are below normal once a monthþ all 25-71 months old children quarterlyþ all 0-71 months old children twice a year· Sustenance of supplementary feeding programs and "Operation Timbang"/growth monitoring (i.e. weighing scales, weight-for-age table, ECCD card)· Promotion of complementary feeding of lugaw and other nutritious food (GO, GROW and GLOW foods) for all children starting 6 mos. old · Provision of de-worming drugs among 2-5 years old children twice a year· Implementation of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) in all health facilities and provision of essential drugs for IMCI· Provision of training for parents on food production, food preparation, food fortification and basic nutrition, and proper care for children · Provision of infrastructure facilities such as health centers, day care centers, primary/secondary health care centers

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10 to 10 Balik Tanaw

From page F4

tion program, integration and automation of nationwide crime reporting system, formulation of legislative reforms affecting the criminal justice system by amending some provisions of the charters of the agencies concerned.

Specific to the Prosecution Pillar, the Department of Justice, National Prosecution Service of DOJ, and the Office of the Ombudsman resolved, among others, the enhancement of the prosecutors' knowledge on new laws specially for the vulnerable sectors, have a continuing dialogue between the pillar and the community, strengthening the task force on women and children, implement continuing legal education specifically on laws on women, human rights, gender sensitivity and the rights-based approach.

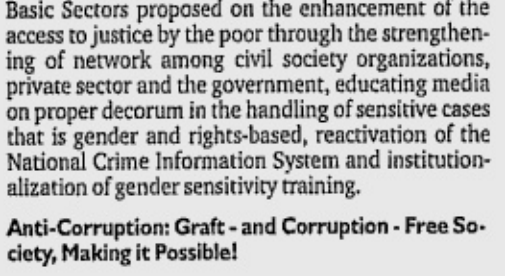
The Court Pillar consisting of Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, Sandiganbayan, 1st and 2nd Level Courts resolved to further develop their ongoing judicial reform focused on establishing more effective, efficient, and inexpensive delivery of justice; more avenues and venues for knowledge and information sharing about best practices in the court pillar; and reinvent and re-engineer their attitudes by taking a closer look at the needs of the public which they serve.

Also, the Correction Pillar composed of Bureau of Corrections, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Local Provincial Government Units, Municipal Detention Centers, Parole and Probation Administration, and Board of Pardons and Parole identified some initiatives such as the institutional advocacy of rehabilitation as against the perception on punitive approach, formulation of correctional standards in the treatment of all prisoners from municipal, city, district, provincial and national correction facilities, improving cooperation programs and linkages with institutions involved in the correction pillar, advocacy of the agenda for rendering of community service in lieu of incarceration and adoption of management information system among agencies.

On the part of the Community Pillar composed of Public Attorney's Office, Alternative Law Groups, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Commission on Human Rights, Academe, Religious and Civic Organizations, Legislative Agencies, and Basic Sectors proposed on the enhancement of the access to justice by the poor through the strengthening of network among civil society organizations, private sector and the government, educating media on proper decorum in the handling of sensitive cases that is gender and rights-based, reactivation of the National Crime Information System and institutionalization of gender sensitivity training.

Anti-Corruption: Graft - and Corruption - Free Society, Making it Possible!

In our advocacy of Graft-and-Corruption-Free Society: Making it Possible!, the members of the Anti-Corruption Cluster consisting of the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), Commission on Audit (COA), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Career Executive Service Board (CESB), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC), Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN), Business for Integrity and Stability of Our Nation Foundation Inc (Bisyon 2020), Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) and other multi-sectoral groups initiated several moves to advance good governance practices within the bureaucracy. All sectors were engaged to win the fight against corruption along the three pillars of action on 1) detection, vigilance, investigation, and prosecution; 2) prevention, education and information; and 3) the role of professionals and business groups. To further combat graft and corruption, all multi-stakeholders pledged to institutionalize and implement the three pillars of action, together with the 2020 Agenda and 2020 Commitments that empowers the citizenry through strengthening the partnership between professionals, and business groups with government and anti-corruption bodies in en-



forcement of laws and regulations to eliminate discretion in bureaucratic decision-making, cut-down bureaucratic requirements in obtaining permits and approvals, and ensure transparency and accountability in all government-private sector transactions. This advocacy also had a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of current anti-graft and corruption laws, and the government agencies enforcing such laws with the view of strengthening anti-corruption efforts of the government through the following: improve the system without requiring legislative actions, improve the system through optimizing use of government resources already available and propose necessary legislative measures.

Local Governance Reform: Scaling up the Gains in Local Governance

In our advocacy of Scaling up the Gains in Local Governance, the Local Governance Reform Cluster consisting of the Department of Interior and Local Government-Local Government Academy (DILG-LGA), Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program (LGSP), League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB), Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), Local Governance Policy Forum (LGPF), Local Governance Citizens' Network (LGC-Net), Task Force Participatory Local Governance (TF-PLG), Philippine Urban Forum (PUF), Logo Tri Phil-Net, Galing Pook Foundation, National Commission on Role of the Filipino Women (NCRFW), Haribon Foundation, UP National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG), La Salle Institute of Governance (LSIG), and Barangay Bayan Governance Consortium showcased exemplary practices of participating local government units (LGUs) and the innovative strategies and tested approaches that were implemented in these communities in promoting good governance and pursuing sustainable development. In addition, this advocacy promoted human rights and gender-responsive agenda and initiatives as valued elements of good governance such as utilizing the GeRL Ka BA Tool as the Gender responsive LGUs assessment tools, facilitating the re-affirmation of the women local officials' commitments in implementing the Manila Declaration on Gender-Responsive Governance, and assessing the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKSPs) and its relevance to the practices in local governance. Hence, in keeping with the theme of the campaign, the DILG issued a circular on localization of the Millennium Development Goals containing specific guidelines to the LGUs on how to implement the eight (8) MDGs in their respective localities.

Human Rights, Gender and MDGs:

People's Rights First in the Realization of MDGs

The next retrospection will unfold the advocacies made by the Right to Development Cluster on People's Rights First in the Realization of MDGs. The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, together with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra), Medical Action Group (MAG), Integrative Medicine for Alternative Healthcare Systems Philippines, Inc. (Inam), Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics (Capwip), UP Third World Studies Center (UP-TWSC), Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), Global Working Compact Group (GC-WG), Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD), and La Salle Institute of Governance (LSIG) led the advocacies for the promotion and protection of human rights especially for children, women and internally displaced persons. Through good governance as a human right, MDGs connected the strong link between human rights and development; and advocated the rights-based approach in the planning, programming, and fiscal allocation in the government

to achieve its targets on MDGs. This advocacy also aimed to increase the level of awareness among regional and local agencies and equip them with knowledge on how to mainstream human rights in their programs and plans at the local level through Memoranda of Agreement with GO and NGO Partners; increase the level of awareness around gender based violence and all other forms of discrimination against women perpetuated in the private or public sphere as a human rights abuse among the local communities; and addressed the lack of relevant information and data needed to formulate policies and programs that will tackle specific issues or problems of rural women. Further, food and health indicators were enhanced for the protection of right to health, taking into consideration the concept of rights-based approach and the normative content of rights.

Media Reforms: Engaging Media in Governance

In our advocacy of Engaging Media in Governance Reforms, the Cluster on Media in Governance led by the Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD) assessed how media practitioners can take part in governance and in the pursuit of governance reforms; develop a framework for media engagement in governance reforms and have a deeper understanding of the state of governance and the state of media in the local level and to redefine the participative media-multi-sector roles in governance. The media institutions that worked on this initiatives include the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF), Center for Media, Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), Philippine Press Institute (PPI), Mindanao News and Information Cooperative Center, Ateneo de Davao, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), Mindanao Institute of Journalism, Forum of Reporters for Empowerment and Equality, The Visayas Examiner, University of San Agustin, Bandillo ng Palawan, Palawan Community Media Council, PBN Broadcasting Network, OFW Journalism Consortium, Samar Island Public Journalists Group and the Partners in IEC and Advoacy for Development Inc, among others. During the national and local consultations, other initiatives were identified such as examination of behavior, attitudes, and performance of media community in the last elections in relation with ethical and professional standards and how this affect the framing of electoral, political, and governance stories; and provided a local level perspective and integrated findings with previous studies done on national media performance. This advocacy produced specific outputs on governance stories that would be used as reportage models for other journalists; targeted to be published or aired before December 10 and then later compiled into a book that will serve as manual for journalists; produced one-hour TV documentary on journalists' killings using a governance and human rights frame; strengthened network of media in governance (through e-groups, regular fora, alliance building both local and regional), and crafted recommendations for the national forum on media governance, media in governance.

Public Administration Reforms:

Enhancing the Administration of Service Delivery

In our advocacy of Enhancing the Administration of Service Delivery, the Public Administration Reform Cluster led by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) engaged the system of government into a process of review, enhancement and institutionalization of reforms in policies, plans, programs and systems designed to strengthen the capacity and responsiveness of government, especially those in the front line, in delivering the much-needed efficiency and effectiveness in the public service delivery improvement program of social and economic services. The department pursued these initiatives together with its cluster members such as the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), UP-National College of Public Administration (UP-NCPAG), and Association of Schools for Public Administration in the Philippines (Aspap), Ateneo School of Government (ASG), Caucus of Development NGOs (Code-NGO), Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA), and Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Specific outputs of this advocacy are identification of issues and concerns about the role of schools teaching public administration in relation to poverty reduction and improving service delivery; identification of measures to address these concerns; and action plan on mainstreaming the MDGs and how it can contribute towards alleviating poverty and improving service delivery at the regional and local level. The advocacy was also further supported by improving the quality of service through a customer-driven government organization; fostering effective and efficient use of Spatial Information Management and Geographic Information System (GIS)

in attaining the Millennium Development Goals in the country; setting a new direction in government purchasing using the Web technology as an alternative in curbing graft and corruption; improving operational efficiency, bolstering transparency, and encouraging competition; discussing policy and governance issues, problems, and concerns to aid better policy decisions in the Philippines; and initiate crafting of the Rights-Based Review Framework that will examine the roles of key actors in governance in the realization, promotion and fulfillment of human rights in the country. Also, the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) trained and educated key information officials and staff of government in marketing and equipped them with theories, tools and techniques, which they can apply to their respective marketing program for communicating better their services and programs to the public and specific clients.

Environmental Governance: Strengthening Governance towards Environmental Sustainability

In our advocacy of Strengthening Governance to-

wards Environmental Sustainability, the Environment cluster utilized creative and effective means of promoting biodiversity conservation, climate change and environmental protection and strengthen knowledge sharing and management at the local level. These initiatives aimed to gather experiences on forest management and demonstrate the feasibility of integrating forest management with local governance as spearheaded by Haribon in partnership with other groups such as the DILG, LGUs, DENR, La Salle institute of Governance, UP-NCPAG, Ateneo School of Government and local partners. Specific recommendations gathered by the environment cluster are the following: mandatory hiring of Environment and Natural Resources Officer in all Local Government Units; enactment or codification of Local Environmental Code in all LGUs; adoption of co-management agreements or strategies (i.e. involvement and participation of all concerned sectors) in local forest management; strengthening of education and capacity-building among the LGUs, particularly of the Local Chief Executives in law enforcement and forest management; adoption of multi-sectoral community-based approaches in all phases of forest conservation; engagement of the youth sector in forest conservation; institutionalization of incentive system for stakeholders' participation in forest conservation and management; amendment of some provisions of the 1991 Local Government Code by granting full devolution of powers and authority in forest conservation and management to the LGU; mandating DENR to share power with the LGU; DENR to exercise prudence in issuing Mineral Permit Sharing Agreement (MPSA) and other tenurial instruments; important Biodiversity Areas must be spared from mining; integration of ecotourism program in the LGU development plan; possible adoption of Rainforestation (planting native/indigenous tree species) to support farmers and bring back biodiversity; establishment of guidelines that can help integrate plans and programs in the LGUs; capacity building to develop capital markets and proper valuation of forest resources; clarification by the government of its national and local environmental policy directions and roles; replication and documentation of best practices in local forest management and governance; and provision of incentives to implement forest management.

In our advocacy of Empowering and Engaging the Basic Sectors in Governance, the National Anti Poverty Commission facilitated the holding of pro-poor initiatives that sought to empower the basic sectors and engage their active participation in governance. Sectoral agenda representing the current situation of the basic sectors have been drawn up resulting from local and area consultations. The sectoral agenda set out the premise for the provision of interventions for social capital formation and implementation of services and programs that will help uplift the conditions of poverty and powerlessness of the poor

In our advocacy of Governance in Peace-Building and Conflict Prevention, we aimed to undertake initiatives that would give emphasis in forging and sustaining peace. One important initiative that was held toward this end was the Cordillera Peace-Conflict Study and Dialogue Series.

To all the 10 to 10 Movers - the members of the Thematic Working Group Clusters, Steering Committee - those were the highlights of our accomplishments and the fruits of our collective endeavor for good governance for the last 10 weeks with the full cooperation and support of the UNDP and the entire donor community. We are hopeful that these initiatives will be continued and expanded as we march and commit ourselves toward a decade of governance reform in the country.

In our advocacy of Empowering and Engaging the Basic Sectors in Governance, the National Anti Poverty Commission facilitated the holding of pro-poor initiatives that sought to empower the basic sectors and engage their active participation in governance

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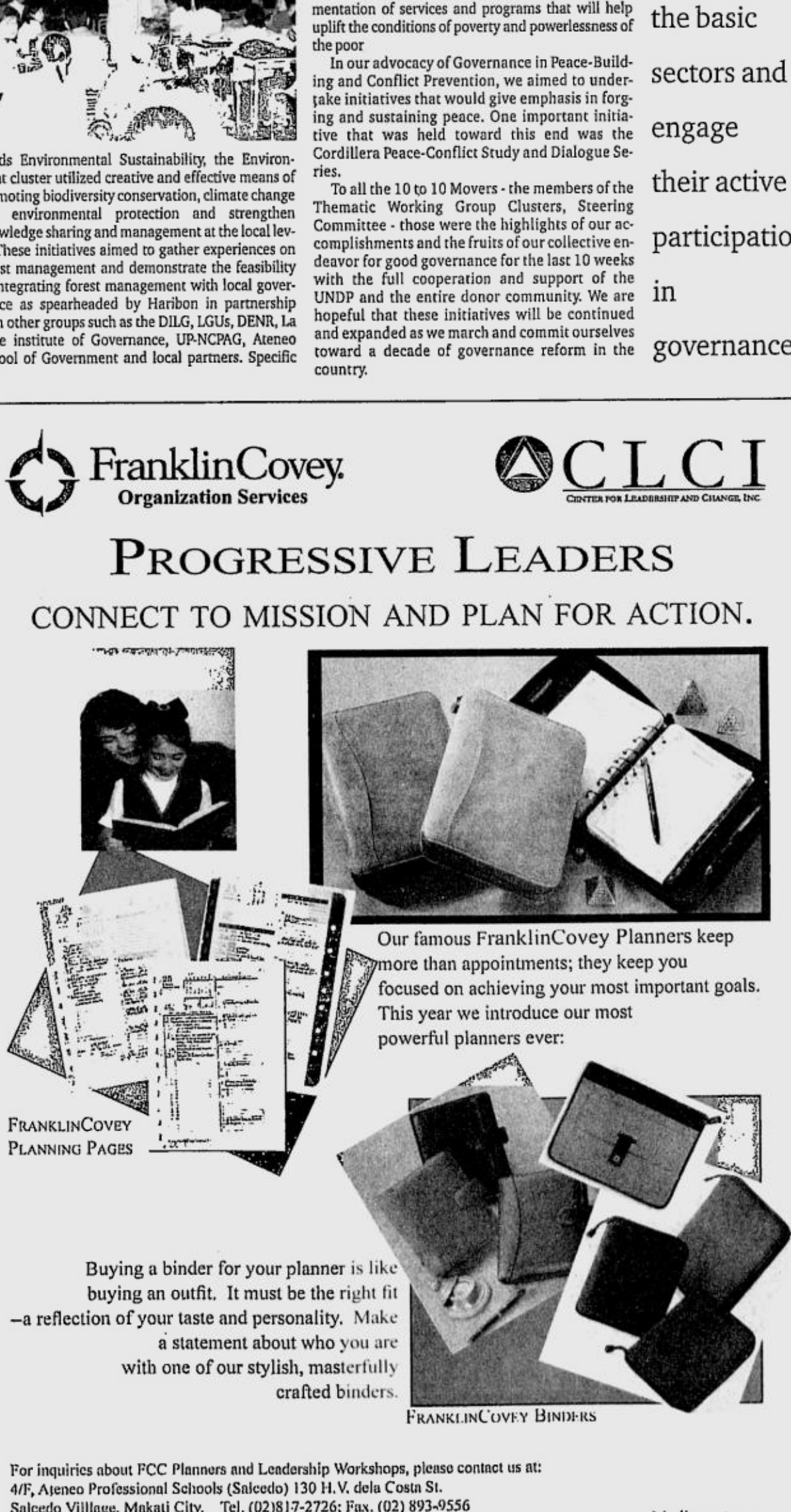

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Brights lights, big money for film on genius in the dark

LONDON—It took Taylor Hackford 15 years to find financing for his film on Ray Charles, a no-holds-barred story about how a blind black boy from impoverished rural Georgia became a rhythm and blues legend.

The American filmmaker finally found one investor, a Ray Charles fan from Colorado, to put up the money for the film's entire budget of $35 million.

It turned out a good bet as "Ray" raked in $65 million in its first four weeks at the box office in the United States and its star Jamie Foxx was tipped for an Oscar for best actor.

The Hackford movie is scheduled to show in European cinemas over the next few weeks.

Fearless in showing its subject's character strengths and weaknesses, "Ray" charts the tragedies and triumphs of a great black musician who turned a handicap into a strength.

Alone in the dark

"Ray Charles was even more able to get in touch with his feelings because he was blind," Hackford told AFP in an interview.

"He wasn't inhibited," said Hackford, who divides his time between London, New York and Los Angeles. "He was letting it come out. He didn't care about being cool, he was cool.

"Ray had anger... He was more concerned about whether a blind person could do something rather than a black person," Hackford said. "Ray Charles was constantly alone in the dark."

It was his handicap that forged his genius, said Hackford, who is fascinated by the history of African-American music and the underclass.

Beyond the box office success of "An Officer and a Gentleman," Hackford in 1987 directed a documentary on rock and roll star Chuck Berry which drew the attention of a son of Charles.

Hackford met Charles for the first time in 1987, obtained the rights for the film, before spending a decade in the wilderness trying to convince Hollywood to put their bets on a film about a black man.

He found the man for the part in Foxx, a seasoned comedian who has been a pianist since he was three years old and who resembled Charles to the point of being mistaken for him.

'Too sympathetic'

Charles had written an autobiography, "but it didn't have an emotional depth to it," said Hackford, who met with Charles over 15 years. "He told all the facts. It doesn't tell you how he felt."

So, Hackford talked to 35 people who were close to Charles to find out more about him. Charles did not complain and readily confirmed details.

The filmmaker also consulted a black southern American writer to make sure the dialogue in the film was authentic.

Though Hackford is an unabashed admirer of the bluesman, he said "the film depicts him as not too sympathetic."

It shows not only his tragic childhood in Georgia and his climb to stardom, but also his betrayals, his insatiable appetite for sex, his formidable business sense, and his 17-year addiction to heroin.

"He let me tell that story," during meetings in the last 15 years of his life. "He wasn't afraid of the truth. I told him I wouldn't tell the story unless it was the real story."

He said he did not know "if he would have given me the same freedom in the mid-'80s."

THE REEL Ray Charles is a hit, played by comic Jamie Foxx (right), who bears a striking resemblance to the late great real one, who was "the first to mix God's music with the devil's music"

SHOW TIME

Dead at 73

Adept at gospel, rhythm and blues, country, rock, jazz, Charles constantly mixed musical genres while forging his own style.

Mixing black gospel and the blues, which caused a scandal in the 1950s, Hackford said, "he was the first to mix God's music with the devil's music."

Charles' legendary hoarse voice went quiet on June 10 when he died after a battle with liver disease. He was 73.

However, he still had time to listen to a pre-screening of the film with Hackford sitting next to him to describe the sequences.

"He wanted to hear the voice of his mother," a key character in the film, said Hackford who then recalled the musician saying: "That's it, that's the truth."

After 20 minutes without budging in his seat, Charles turned to the director and said: "Taylor, I'm very pleased." *AFP*

8 indie filmmakers make it to Cinema One Originals

EIGHT independent filmmakers have been given the chance to create full-length films through Cinema One Originals, a project of the country's premiere movie cable channel, Cinema One.

Chosen from more than 300 entries, each of the eight qualifying proposals will receive a grant of P600,000 to produce their dream title on digital video.

The commissioned works are Sigfreid Barros-Sanchez's semi-documentary "Ang Anak ni Lino Brocka;" Topel Lee's *manananggal* story in "Dilim;" Denisa Reyes' drama "The Learning House;" Jon Red's cop story "Anak ng Tinapa;" Dennis Marasigan's "Sa North Diversion Road," the story of a traveling couple; Lisa Cornejo's "Sitak" (or taxi), a story of a manager turned taxi driver; Jesse Monteverde's love story "Love Letters;" Jade de Castro's film tackling a sex scandal, "High School Scandal," co-written by Raymond Lee, Emman de la Cruz, Ned Tresspeces and Michiko Yamamoto.

The contract signing and awarding of production grants will be on Dec. 17. The festival screening all eight final works will be held early next year.

Cinema One is operated by Creative Programs Inc. (CPI), an ABS-CBN entertainment subsidiary.

DYSFUNCTIONAL BAND. "We're always on the fringe of something going wrong," says bassist Nikki Sixx.

'We're still Motley Crue —and we still rock'

LOS ANGELES—The original members of the 1980s glam metal band Motley Crue made hard living and wild sexcapades a centerpiece of their music and their lives, selling millions of albums along the way.

Now, after a five-year hiatus from performing together, the big-haired, leather-clad Crue members are eager to slip back into the music, if not the lifestyle depicted in hit rockers like "Girls, Girls, Girls" and "Smokin' in the Boys' Room."

The band arrived Monday at the Hollywood Palladium in a hearse, sporting eye makeup. About 1,000 people cheered as the group opened with "Dr. Feelgood" following a news conference.

World tour

With support from the cable music television network VH1, the band—vocalist Vince Neil, drummer Tommy Lee, guitarist Mick Mars and bass player Nikki Sixx—plan a world tour beginning in February in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The band will hit more than 60 cities in North America during two legs and play several festivals in Europe before wrapping up the tour in southeast Asia and Australia.

The band will release a double-CD greatest hits compilation with three new songs titled "Red, White & Crue" in February.

"We're just ready to go out and rock," Neil said at the news conference. "We're still Motley. We still rock."

The band, which originally formed in 1981, regrouped a few months ago after Sixx wrote some songs and asked Neil if he would sing them.

"There were definitely issues to be worked out," Sixx said of the bad blood berween his band mates.

"We got in and we were like, 'Wow. Where's the problem here? Did we make a mountain out of a mole hill?'" Sixx said in an interview before the reunion event. "We're a dysfunctional band that is driven by drama and we are always on the fringe of something going wrong."

Pamela's ex

Although Neil and Lee have dabbled in reality television, the band members have been known less in recent years for their music and more for their personal troubles. Lee in particular.

He has been in and out of probation for years stemming from charges in 1998 that he abused ex-wife actress Pamela Anderson, with whom he has two children. He also faced charges of child abuse and a firearms violation.

In 1989, Sixx nearly died from a heroin overdose. Mars is recovering from hip replacement surgery to treat a degenerative illness.

"People progress and they grow," Sixx said. "Each guy has individually his own demons that he's had to deal with ... a lot of pain and torture, personal torture, that they've either put themselves through or somehow has been inflicted upon them."

Sixx said Mars is ready to play, despite the surgery.

"He's in rehearsal," Sixx said. "He's standing up. He's playing his guitar. He's shredding. He's been through hell. Here we stand together ready to wave the flag for rock 'n' roll."

Sixx said he hopes the band can match the success veteran acts like U2, Aerosmith and the Rolling Stones have had in gaining younger fans.

"We're making new music," Sixx said. "We're taking chances musically. It's a really cool thing." *AP*

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The best, brightest, from Viva

THE FINEST of the Filipino talent is represented in Viva Records' "Music Force."

VIVA Records, which remains a firm believer in the Filipino talent, was easily the country's busiest recording company this year.

The year almost past saw Viva Records releasing a bumper crop of albums by some of the country's finest artists and groups, including Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid and singing champions Sarah Geronimo, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista and Raymond Manalo.

Also on the Viva Records list are the albums of Bituin Escalante, Rachel Alejandro, Roselle Nava, Noel Milan, K and the Boxers, Rivermaya, U-Turn, 17:28, Ntwine, Freestyle, The Company, and The Mongols, the new band of former Eraserheads frontman Ely Buendia.

Regine's album, "Covers," has the Songbird performing cover versions of popular hits such as "Forevermore" by the Side A band. Ogie's album, "I Am A Singer," was also the title of his concert at the Music Museum this year.

From the singing champs come Sarah's "Sweet Sixteen" album, a follow-up to her quintuple-platinum debut "Popstar;" Rachelle Ann's self-titled platinum album featuring the hits "Don't Cry Out Loud" and "You and Me (We Wanted It All)," a duet with Christian Bautista; Mark Bautista's self-titled debut, recently honored with a gold record award and featuring his latest single, "Lahat sa Buhay Ko" by Vehnee Saturno; and Raymond Manalo's upcoming album "Faithfully," set for release on Dec. 16.

Still in the market are the self-titled album of Bituin Escalante; "Heart's Desire" by Rachel Alejandro; "Bare" by Roselle Nava; "Again and Again" by Noel Milan; "Sasakyan Kita" by K and the Boxers; "Between the Stars and the Waves" and the EP (Extended Play) of "Liwanag sa Dilim" by Rivermaya; "Once in a Lifetime" by Freestyle; "Mahal Kong Radyo" by The Company; "Buddha's Pest" by The Mongols, and the self-titled albums of Ntwine and U-Turn.

Coming soon are the albums of promising newcomers Jennifer Ventura and Jayanne, and another one from the Viva Hot Babes, with the carrier single "Basketball."

The Viva artists will be performing in mall shows to promote their albums. Fans can catch them at SM North Edsa on Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 18, at SM Pampanga.

FREESTYLE

SIDE A

December to remember at Tavern

TO ADD glitter to the season of joy, Tavern of the Square ends 2004 with a stellar lineup of performers led by Side A and Freestyle, who have just arrived from concert tours abroad, as well as acoustic sensations Nyoy and Mannos.

Side A gives its loyal fans a holiday treat on Dec. 9, 22 and 29.

Freestyle takes over on Dec. 10.

Nyoy and Mannos perform on Dec. 13, 21 and 28.

Also returning to the Tavern stage is Fat Session with its nostalgic '80s music.

Dreamy boy band Wiseguys thrill their fans on Dec. 23 and 30.

Pop band Art 'n' Soul take its turn on Dec. 27.

Making its debut at Tavern is new talent Time and a Half, performing on Dec. 15.

Located on the second floor of Greenbelt 3 in Makati, Tavern on the Square is open Monday to Saturday from 6 p.m., with shows starting at 9 p.m.

There is a minimum consumable charge of P400++ per person.

Tavern also accepts bookings and reservations for functions.

It will be closed on the following dates for private functions: Dec. 11, 14, 16 and 17.

It will also take a break on Dec. 24 and 25 and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Tavern is now online (www.tavernonthesquare.com), but you may still call telephone number 757-4484 or 85 for inquiries and reservations.

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DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
2 BIRTH

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SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM Manila Cinema 6
SM North Edsa Cinema 8

ALEXANDER MTRCB RATING: R13
SM Manila Cinema 4
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM Fairview Cinema 7
SM Bicutan Cinema 4
SM Megamall Cinema 8
SM North Edsa Cinema 6
SM Southmall Cinema 8
SM Tutuban Cinema 4
SM Sucat Cinema 4

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING BIRTH
SM Southmall Cinema 1
SM North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 4
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 9
SM Manila Cinema 7

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM Manila Cinema 11
SM Megamall Cinema 11
SM Fairview Cinema 11
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM Southmall Cinema 9

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING NED KELLY
SM North Edsa Cinema 1
SM Tutuban Cinema 2
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM Southmall Cinema 4
SM Manila Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 5

ONE MISSED CALL MTRCB RATING: R 13
SM Manila Cinema 8
SM North Edsa Cinema 4
SM Megamall Cinema 2
SM Sta Mesa Cinema 6
SM Bicutan Cinema 3
SM Sucat Cinema

SM Bicutan Cinema 2
SM North Edsa Cinema 3
SM Manila Cinema 9
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING PA-SIYAM
SM Sta Mesa Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 6
SM Southmall Cinema 7
SM Sucat Cinema 3
SM Fairview Cinema 5
SM Tutuban Cinema 3

BCUZ OF U
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 12
SM Megamall Cinema 9
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10
SM Fairview Cinema 9
SM Southmall Cinema 10

GEORGE OF THE DRAGON
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 7
SM North Edsa Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 3
SM Tutuban Cinema 1

THE POLAR EXPRESS
MTRCB Rating: G
SM Megamall Cinema 10
SM Sta Mesa Cinema 7
SM Southmall Cinema 5
SM Manila Cinema 3
SM Fairview Cinema 8

NATIONAL TREASURE
MTRCB RATING: G
SM Manila Cinema 1
SM Fairview Cinema 6
SM North Edsa Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 7
SM Southmall Cinema 2
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM Sucat Cinema 2
SM Bicutan Cinema 1

SANTA SANTITA
MTRCB RATING: PG13
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PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE GP
1 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS GP
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS GP
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONESS PG13
3 (DOLBY) GEORGE AND THE DRAGON GP
4 (DOLBY) 2046 R13

Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) PA-SIYAM
2 (SDDS) CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANKS
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 GOLD (DTS) 2046
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BIRTH
6 GOLD (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
8 (DTS) BCUZ OF U
9 (DTS) SEED OF CHUCKY
10 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
2 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
3 (DOLBY) BIRTH
4 (DOLBY) 2046

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Greenhills Center
MALL CINEPLEX
Tel 911-3101 loc 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
5 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES
6 (Dolby) PA SIYAM
7 (Dolby) BCUZ OF U

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BIRTH
2. ALEXANDER
3. NED KELLY
4. ONE MISSED CALL
5. SALAT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SALAT
2 SEED OF CHUCKY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SALAT
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 NANANABIK
4 (DTS)

Masagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 · 833.3274
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 PASIYAM
3 SALAT

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2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3
4 RESERVED

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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 ALEXANDER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
5 SALAT SA LIGAYA

METROPOLIS star
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(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BIRTH
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA
3 PA-SIYAM
4 BCUZ OF U
5 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
6 NATIONA TREASURE

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Christmas carols at the Star Malls

THE STAR Group of Malls Caroling Cheers competition ends in a showdown of some of the best choral voices in the metropolis.

SHOW TIME

Catch the Caroling Cheers grand finals at Starmall Edsa and Starmall Las Piñas on Saturday, Dec. 11, and at Metropolis Star Alabang on Thrusday, Dec. 16. Exciting prizes await the lucky winners.

Then catch a repeat performance of the choral contest winners as they serenade shoppers with a night of carols on Dec. 16 at Starmall Edsa and Starmall Las Piñas and on Dec. 22 at Metropolis Star Alabang.

Also, listen to a special recital by the Holly Harpist on Dec. 19 at Starmall Las Piñas on Dec. 21 at Starmall Edsa. As a Christmas bonus, enjoy a mini concert of Perfect Rhythm on Dec. 10 at Starmall Edsa and at Dec. 18 at Starmall Las Piñas.

The Star Group of Malls is composed of Metropolis Star Alabang, Starmall Edsa and Starmall Las Piñas.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1 2 3 & 4	POLAR EXPRESS-XMAS W/ KRANKS BRIDGET JONES/EDGE & D DRAGON 2046
PREMIERE THEATRE	NATIONAL TREASURE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SAW
CINEMA-2	NAKAW NA SANDALI
CINEMA-3	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRIDGET JONES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SEED OF CHUCKY
CINEMA-12	HELLWOLF
CINEMA-14	PA SIYAM
CINEMA-15	B CUZ OF U

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	RAINBOW HOLIDAYS 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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GUARANTEED SEATS
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1 BIRTH
10:50, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15 8:45, 11:15
R 13

2 BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
10:30, 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50
PG-13

3 NATIONAL TREASURE
11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:30
GP

4 2046
12:00, 2:40, 5:20 8:00, 10:40
R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ALEXANDER R13 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00	NATIONAL TREASURE GP 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10	BRIDGET JONES PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
1 MISSED CALL R13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	2046 R13 12:00,2:20,4:50,7:20,9:50	NED KELLY

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 - MON. - FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide
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4 Alexander	2 Salat sa Ligaya	2 Ginger Snaps 2
5 Salat sa Ligaya	3 Pa-Siyam	
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CINEMA 2: BIRTH 11:35, 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55 P13

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1 POLAR EXPRESS (GP) FS 10:45AM, 3:15PM, LMF 7:45PM
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (GP) FS 1:00PM, 5:30PM, LMF 10:00PM

2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON) FS 11:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, LMF 9:45PM (PG-13)

3 GEORGE & THE DRAGON FS 11:35AM, 2:00PM, 4:25PM, 6:50PM LMF 9:15PM (GP)

4 2046 FS 10:50AM, 1:30PM, 4:10PM, 6:50PM, LMF 9:30PM (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE: NATIONAL TREASURE (GP) FS 11:20AM, 2PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, LMF 10:00PM

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 NATIONAL TREASURE • THX	6 ONE MISSED CALL
2 BIRTH	7 PA-SIYAM
3 2046	8 ALEXANDER
4 NED KELLY	9 BRIDGET JONES 2
5 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON	10 TWO BROTHERS

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

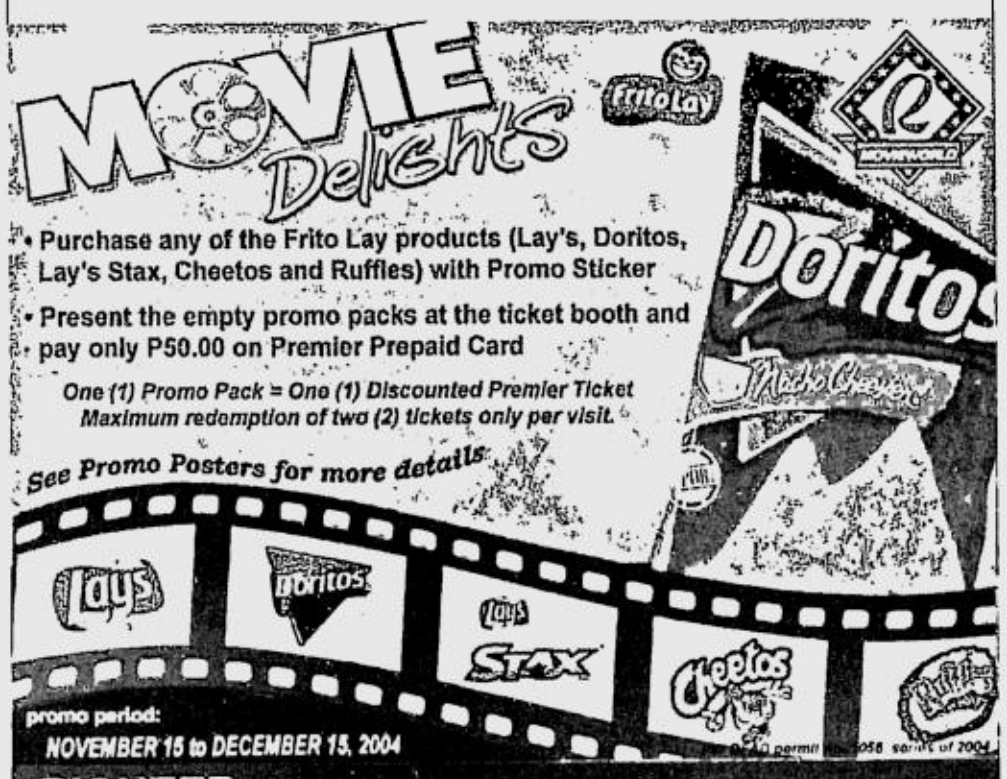
1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON	
2 BIRTH	5 BRIDGET JONES 2
3 2046	6 NED KELLY
4 ONE MISSED CALL	7 RESERVE

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280

1 BCUZ OF U	5 BRIDGET JONES 2
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 BIRTH
3 NED KELLY	7 ALEXANDER
4 SEED OF CHUCKY	8 PA-SIYAM

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 ALEXANDER	5 BRIDGET JONES 2
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 CHRISTMAS W/ THE KRANKS
3 PA-SIYAM	7 THE POLAR EXPRESS
4 SEED OF CHUCKY	8 HELLWOLF



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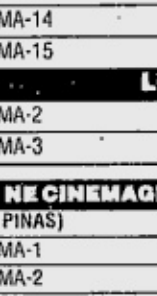
2 SEED OF CHUCKY	4 NATIONAL TREASURE

CAINTA 240-4681

1 ALEXANDER	3 PA-SIYAM
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 ONE MISSED CALL

Opportunity knocks but once.



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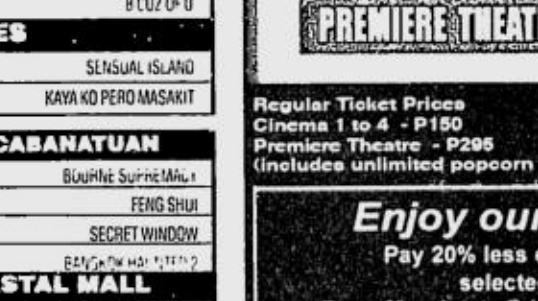

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3 DTS Dolby	ALEXANDER 1:40 6:10 8:40
4 DOLBY	NATIONAL TREASURE 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
5 DTS	BRIDGET JONES 11:40 1:00 4:30 6:40 9:10
6 DTS Dolby	PA SIYAM 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
7 DTS Dolby	BCUZ OF U 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20

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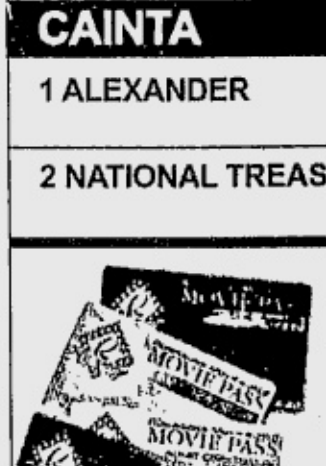
Dec. 10	SLR vs. PUREFOODS
Dec. 12	RED BULL vs. COKE
Dec. 15	FEDEX vs. SLR
Dec. 25	DISNEY ON ICE 1PM/4:30PM/6PM
Dec. 26	DISNEY ON ICE 2PM/6PM
Dec. 27	DISNEY ON ICE 2PM/6PM



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Rock stars against child trafficking

IN THE history of pop culture, rock stars have created a certain wild persona: Drugs, kinky sex and rebellion are among some of the things attributed to the rock and roll lifestyle.

But despite this negative perception, rock stars are also some of the most outspoken celebrities. Some rock stars espouse socio-civic and political causes, such as Bob Dylan, REM's Michael Stipe and U2's Bono, to name a few.

In the local scene, the late lamented Yano and Dong Abay's newest group, Pan, The Jerks, and, of course, Lolita Carbon and Asin who have have long been singing about the environment even before "ozone layer" became a buzz word.

For the grand caravan day of Ecpat (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) on Saturday, Dec. 12, a host of who's who in the local rock scene will perform for the benefit of the survivors of child trafficking.

Some of the bands that are slated to perform are 6-Cycle Mind, Bamboo, Bayang Barrios, Brownbeat All Stars, Color It Red, Radioactive Sago Project, The Jerks, Cynthia Alexander, Tropical Depression, Gary Granada and Noel Cabangon.

SHOW TIME

"We want to produce something that people will enjoy," says Avic Ilagan, event coordinator of the Ecpat grand caravan day which happens at Plaza Raja Sulayman in Intramuros, Manila. "It will be just a concert. There will be no emcee and speeches. The speeches will come earlier in the afternoon in the matinee program."

Art with purpose

Ecpat is a nongovernment agency that aims to end child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. For three years now, the organization has been conducting a people's campaign, with Ecpat staff and volunteers going to various destinations generating public awareness on the issue through arts and culture.

"We want something that will attract the youth," explains Ilagan, who helped conceptualize the program along with other Ecpat staff. Ilagan herself is a feminist filmmaker whose documentaries often discuss issues on Filipino women.

She believes that, as an artist, espousing a cause can be very fulfilling. "It is better if your art has a purpose," she says. "That way, what you are doing has an effect on the lives of people."

"It is important to educate the public," wrote Cynthia Alexander in an e-mail. "(But) it is not easy. Artists, however, can get the message across without sounding like a hard sell."

Tropical Depression's Papa Dom said, "By actively getting involved locally and by spreading the message, (we would) hopefully be able to enlighten the people regarding the plight of these children and inspiring them to take action."

Color It Red's Cookie Chua said she could "only aspire and strive to one day be the kind of artist who can write and perform songs about relevant issues such as this."

For now, she added, "I make myself accessible to shows like this."

But Ecpat's grand caravan day is more than just a rock concert. It is a whole-day affair that begins at 9 a.m.

A number of booths will dot the grounds of Plaza Raja Sulayman.

Nationwide drive

According to Ilagan, it will be an advocacy campaign, rock concert and good, old-fashioned family fair all rolled into one.

"We are hoping that it will be like those festivals in Europe where you have performers casually performing on the streets," Ilagan added.

Aside from the matinee program and the concert in the evening, the grand caravan will also have film showings on child issues and a photo exhibit by filmmaker Neil Daza.

The Ecpat grand caravan day is a culmination of a nationwide campaign. On Dec. 6, Ecpat staff and volunteers started a tour across the country, disseminating information and conducting seminars.

Ecpat is hoping Dec. 12 will be declared the Day Against Child Trafficking.

For more information about child trafficking and the Ecpat grand caravan day, call the Pact campaign secretariat at 925-2804.

"I MAKE myself accessible to shows like this," says Cookie Chua.

"IT IS important to educate the public," says Cynthia Alexander.

Docus on fast-food, Tupac, child prostitutes compete for Oscar

LOS ANGELES—The fast-food indictment "Super Size Me" is among 12 films competing for best documentary at the Academy Awards.

Other documentaries on the list of contenders released by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences include "Tupac: Resurrection," an examination of the life of slain rapper Tupac Shakur; the surfing chronicle "Riding Giants," the first documentary ever to open the Sundance Film Festival; and "Born Into Brothels," a look at the harsh lives of children prostitutes in Calcutta, which won Sundance's audience award for favorite documentary last January.

"Super Size Me" hilariously traces director Morgan Spurlock's physical and emotional deterioration during a month he spent on an all-McDonald's diet.

Stepping up

The film is one of the highest-grossing documentaries ever with $11.5 million at the domestic box office. "Super Size Me" ranked behind "Fahrenheit 9/11," which grossed $120 million, as the No. 2 documentary of 2004.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" creator Michael Moore, who won the documentary Oscar with 2002's "Bowling for Columbine," decided against submitting his latest film for that category. Instead, Moore is promoting "Fahrenheit 9/11," his assault on President George W. Bush's actions regarding the Sept. 11 attacks, as a best-picture candidate.

Other films in the running for the five documentary Oscar nominations are "Home of the Brave," about slain civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo; "Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train," a portrait of the historian and activist; "In the Realms of the Unreal," about outsider artist and janitor Henry Darger; and "The Ritchie Boys," which tells the story of German Jews who trained as an elite US intelligence unit during World War II.

January announcement

Also: "The Story of the Weeping Camel," about a crisis over a camel calf belonging to a family of Mongolian nomads; "Tell Them Who You Are," filmmaker Mark Wexler's examination of his relationship with his father, Oscar-winning cinematographer Haskell Wexler ("Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Bound for Glory"); "Touching the Void," blending interviews and dramatic re-creations to tell the survival story of mountaineers Joe Simpson and Simon Yates on an ill-fated climb in Peru; and "Twist of Faith," about a man confronting past sexual abuse by a priest.

Oscar nominations will be announced Jan. 25, and the awards ceremony is Feb. 27. *AP*

Acrobats with humor at Boom na Boom

AFTER Winnie and Yoyong, another big event is taking Manila by storm during the whole Christmas season.

The China Youth Acrobatic Troupe is definitely one storm Filipinos will welcome any time. After just a week of performances at the Boom na Boom Carnival, the group from Wuqiao, China, has won the admiration and respect of Filipino audiences for their ingenious and breathtaking acts.

Founded in 1950 as the only professional literature and art organization in Wuqiao, the troupe is composed of the most famous acrobats from the province. It has built a name for its blend of highly skilled performances and humor. It has produced more than 50 exciting acts which have won awards in acrobatic competitions in China.

Crowd favorite acts include the Foot Tricks, where a woman tosses a young girl up in the air and catches the child using her feet; the Plate Spinning, where girls bend, toss and tumble while keeping plates spinning at the end of sticks; the Contortionist, which leaves audiences wondering whether the performers have bones at all; and the Chair on Head where an acrobat balances her body upside down in the air atop a narrow stack of chairs. The group also performs Straw Hat Juggling, Lion Dance, Passing on Wooden Drums, Rope Spinning, and many more.

Before coming to Manila, the group performed and was highly praised in the US, England, France, Germany, Australia, Holland, Belgium, Sweden and Norway.

The China Youth Acrobatic Troupe performs at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily at Boom na Boom. It will tour Robinson's malls on Dec. 11 (Metro East), Dec. 12 (Imus), Dec. 15 (Manila), Dec. 16 (Pampanga), and Dec. 18 (Dasmariñas).

Boom na Boom 2004 is sponsored by Globe Handyphone, Touch Mobile and Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdogs. It is located at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Gil Puyat Avenue, CCP Complex, and is open from 4 p.m. For more information call 832-9303 to 04.

MIND-BOGGLING, back-breaking feats by the China Youth Acrobatic Troupe

THEY FOUND each other, got separated, and are now on the verge of having meaningful relationships with other people. But at the end, are Lawrence (John Lloyd Cruz) and Cielo (Bea Alonzo) still be meant for each other? ABS-CBN's teleserye "It Might Be You," which began in December 2003, ends on Friday, Dec. 10. Cielo has spent several years in the US with Axel (Marco Alcaraz). Lawrence is now a pilot who may be starting a new relationship with Axel's sister Aretha. And yet, Lawrence and Cielo keep entering each other's lives. Don't miss the last few episodes of "It Might Be You" this week.

Prelude to party season at Spirits

THE CHRISTMAS holidays are just around the corner, and special events and parties are being set into place.

Among the many holiday events, the one we can look forward to with high expectations are the parties that Spirits Malate Singles Bar and Disco will be hosting.

One of their appetizers for the forthcoming party season is called "Hot Fun...Reload!" and is a prelude to the season of mirth and frolic. The party starts as early as 5 p.m. just as the sun goes down to launch Spirits very own Executive Hour.

"Hot Fun...Reload!" runs daily.

Those who attend "Hot Fun...Reload!" will be treated to special discounts on food and beverages on the upper deck of Sports Malate Coyote Bar. The relaxing mood is perfect for those who want to unwind after work and prepare themselves for more partying as the night grows older.

Spirits is located at the corner of J. Bocobo and J. Nakpil Streets in the heart of Malate's most happening strip.

Soon, the temperature will soar to keep the happenings hot despite the cool weather. It's definitely the season to be jolly, and Spirits is one of the hotspots to be in.

■ Lifestyle / C1
Latest collection of one-of-a kind bags, gems at Firma

■ News / A2
Hacienda Luisita peasant leader shot dead in Tarlac City

■ World / A8
US soldiers assail Defense Secretary Rumsfeld on conduct of Iraq war

■ Supplement/ L/M/N
The PDI anniversary extra: Still rocking on its 19th year

■ Entertainment / A30
'Jolo Revilla got Osang's daughter pregnant but they're not getting married'

GMA on Real rescue: It's a miracle, praise God

By Fe Zamora

IT'S A MIRACLE.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday praised the heavens for the rescue of four survivors from the rubble of a collapsed building in Real, Quezon.

"Today, the soldiers, the volunteers of the

GMA/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, December 10, 2004 ★★ 112 pages / 14 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 2 P18

website: www.inq7.net

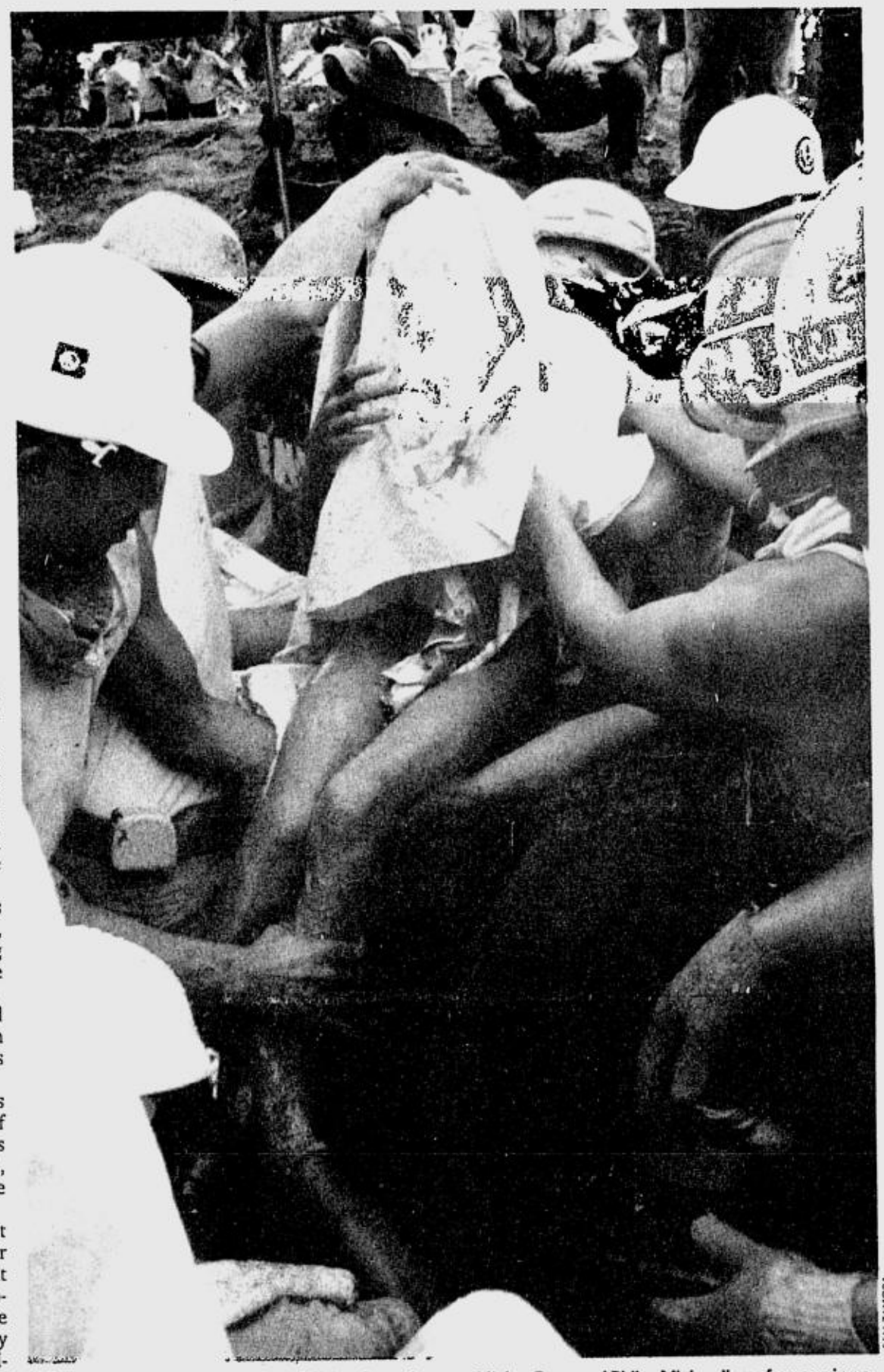
Red Cross needs help

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

WITH the warehouses of television networks GMA 7 and ABS-CBN bulging with relief goods for the typhoon victims in Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija, the Philippine

RED CROSS/ A21

Miners pull out 4 buried under ruins



VOLUNTEER miners from Benguet Mining Corp., Lepanto Mining Corp. and Philex Mining dig up four survivors, including 15-year-old Modesto Manuguid, who were trapped beneath a collapsed building in Real, Quezon.

REM ZAMORA

3 kids, grandma end 10-day ordeal

By Marlon Ramos, Volt Contreras and Romulo O. Ponte

REAL, Quezon—When miner Luis Balungay heard a faint call for help yesterday, he was convinced that it was coming from under the pile of rubble.

But when he tried telling the other rescuers what he heard, they told him he was "daydreaming."

"I was sure that it was coming from a survivor," he later told the INQUIRER. He turned out to be right.

Just minutes later, Balungay and others sent to search for possible survivors in the ruins of the two-story Repador building were lifting out 3-year-old Estela Marie Sur, as a thick crowd clapped and cheered wildly.

Not long after, at around 9:30 a.m., the rescuers were helping Ian Bungag, 14; Maria Tamares, 49, and Modesto Manuguid, 15, out of the small space they had been trapped in for 10 days. *(See story below.)*

Forty-three veteran miners sent by the Philex Mining Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., and Benguet Corp. were the first to break through the rubble.

The miners were later assisted by Army soldiers and a crew from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The stench from rotting bodies grew stronger with every layer of earth removed and concrete slabs cracked. To bear with the smell, the rescuers sprinkled lime on the spot they were working on.

Rescue efforts went on without letup until last night, but the four were the only ones who made it out from among the 100-150 people who took refuge at the Galilee Prayer Beach Resort in Barangay Tignoan on Nov. 29, when Tropical Depression "Winnie" was

MINERS/ A20

APPLAUSE and cheering greet the emergence of 3-year-old Estela Marie Sur from under the rubble of the Repador building. REM ZAMORA

They lived on water in half a meter space

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The wet, dark space in which a woman and three children were trapped for 10 days was only about half a meter high—enough, according to 14-year-old Modesto Manuguid, for them to lie down but not to stand up.

Bruised and connected to an IV drip, Modesto had managed to sit up on his bed in the emergency room. He asked the male nurses around him if he could have some *lugaw* (gruel) and fried chicken but was told that they would have to ask the doctor first.

"If the doctor gives the order, I will personally buy you hot *lugaw* and sizzling fried chicken," a nurse said.

Modesto nodded and gazed out the window, as though looking for something.

"Where am I? I want to go home," he said, and was told that he was at the Quezon Memorial Hospital in Lucena.

But he kept looking around, seeking the companions with whom he had shared his ordeal.

Assured by nurses that, like himself, all his companions were safe, he made the sign of the cross.

"God saved us. He helped us survive," were the first words that Maria Tamares uttered after she, her 3-year-old granddaughter Estela Marie Sur, and Modesto were

THEY LIVED/ A21

THAT GLANCE from Estela Marie Sur is worth a thousand words as she's rushed out of the rescue site in Barangay Tignoan to a waiting chopper for airlifting to Camp Nakar in Lucena City. *(More photos on Page A20.)* REM ZAMORA

How Baguio quake victim survived 15-day ordeal under rubble

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—When baker Pedrito Dy yesterday learned that miners had pulled four survivors from the rubble of a building that had collapsed in mudslides 11 days ago, he prayed that more victims buried in the resort in Real, Quezon, would make it out alive.

Dy, 40, survived the killer earthquake that struck Baguio City in July 1990. He was rescued after spending more than two weeks under the rubble of the collapsed Hyatt Terraces Hotel here.

For 15 days, Dy ate nothing and drank his own urine to survive until a hand held his head and pulled him out of the ruins.

He said he was hoping that the victims would hold on. "They should pray hard because God will make a way to save them," he told the INQUIRER at the Swiss Baker here where he has been working for the past 11 years.

HOW BAGUIO/ A20

Survivors need healing of raw, mental wounds

REAL, Quezon—When she closes her eyes, Wendy Rose Evuenga can remember it vividly: her mother clinging to a tree with her 2-year-old sister when a sudden gush of water, mud and logs yanked the child from her arms.

"I saw my mother lose her grip on Mary Rose. She cried, but I saw her just for a split second, then she was gone," Evuenga, 17, recalled days after her town of Real was ravaged by Tropical Depression "Winnie" and Typhoon "Yoyong," capping the country's worst storm season in 13 years.

Evuenga survived by spending the evening of Nov. 29 clinging to floating logs and swallowing mud and water until help came the next morning.

Efforts to clear the walls of mud and timber and deliver aid to stricken villages have gathered pace, but those who lost loved ones are left to cope with the psychological trauma by themselves.

At least 740 people were killed and 754 others remain missing

SURVIVORS/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/12/09/04

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Second FRONTPAGE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA: Post gov't deals on the Web

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered all government agencies to make all their contracts accessible on the Web to discourage under-the-table deals between private suppliers and contractors and corrupt government officials.

The move is part of the government's continuing campaign to eradicate corruption in the bureaucracy where, the President said, "many are still driven by the dark forces of greed, and worse, many have become indifferent to it."

In a speech before members of the Philippine Government Employees Association in Malacañang, President Arroyo said: "I am instructing the agency heads to make sure that all contracts are totally exposed to the scrutiny of the public by publishing them in the Internet."

By making the contracts open to the scrutiny of the public, the President is confident that government officials would think twice about getting into rotten deals with unscrupulous businessmen. Also, by making all contracts transparent, the public could assess the compliance of the suppliers and contractors.

Aside from opening up the contracts, the President told government executives to get ready for a series of top level seminars with government executives in Manila next week.

"We will have good practitioners from several countries including the founder of Hong Kong's renowned Independent Commission Against Corruption," said the President who had tapped the former British colony's top anticorruption cop Tony Kwok as an adviser.

She urged the government employees to "continue to close ranks in purging the system of corruption, eliminating government waste, increasing tax collection and investing in our nation through revenue increases."

'A SOLDIER SHOT ME'

Luisita peasant leader shot dead

By Jo Clemente, *PDI Central Luzon Desk,* **and Norman Bordadora**

TARLAC CITY—A peasant leader who was one of two witnesses set to testify in the congressional inquiry into the violent dispersal of striking workers at Hacienda Luisita was gunned down in front of his house in Sta. Ignacia town here late Wednesday.

Marcelino "Marcing" Beltran, chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Tarlak (AMT), suffered five bullet wounds and died while being taken to a hospital. He would have turned 53 today.

His son, Mark, 18, said his father had told him "a soldier shot me" and had described his attacker as wearing a military uniform.

According to Mark, the family was busy preparing food for a rally in Manila scheduled later that night when a group of unidentified men called out to his father at about 9 p.m. He said his father went out of the house after he heard the dog barking.

Mark said he heard his father call out: "Who's there?" There was no answer. A few seconds later, Mark said he heard bursts of gunfire.

Beltran was scheduled to testify in Congress next week as an eyewitness to the Nov. 16 dispersal of striking workers at Hacienda Luisita. At least seven people died while more than 100 others were hurt in the dispersal.

While he was not a farmer in the hacienda, Beltran was an active participant in the farm workers strike that crippled production at the Hacienda Luisita estate and the sugar mills of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac, both owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino.

'Since day one'

A statement from the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union and the United Luisita Workers Union said Beltran had participated "since day one" in the simultaneous strike staged by plantation and sugar mill workers of Hacienda Luisita.

Beltran, a former Army sergeant who served in Mindanao, had turned to farming and joined peasant organizations in the province. He was the vice chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon, an affiliate of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. He was also the vice chair of the Anakpawis party in Tarlac province.

Another statement from Emil Paragas, spokesperson of Karapatan-Tarlac, said Beltran's murder may have something do with his being a key witness to the violent dispersal and to an ownership dispute involving his one-and-a-half hectare farm.

An agrarian reform court had issued a decision favoring the landowner and ejecting Beltran, said Paragas.

In its Aug. 24 order, the agrarian reform department's Adjudication Board deputized the military to eject Beltran from the property.

His colleagues at the AMT said Beltran would have been a credible witness in the Luisita inquiry because he knew about guns and bullet trajectories.

Party-list representatives in Congress condemned Beltran's killing and said it was "a stark reminder of the state of human rights in the country."

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano delivered a privilege speech early yesterday, blaming members of the 69th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army for the killing.

69th IB to blame?

"Tomorrow (Dec. 10) is International Human Rights Day and yet here we have a peasant leader shot down in front of his house by military forces," said Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Rep. Liza Maza (Gabriela) said that the Beltran killing was related to the unresolved conflict in Hacienda Luisita.

"We believe that the recent killing is a significant cause for alarm and an indication of the magnitude of the (Hacienda Luisita) dispute concerning the the farm workers' rightful claim on the land they work on," said a joint statement from the Anakpawis, Bayan Muna and Gabriela party-list groups.

It said the killing "appeared well-planned and well-executed, stoking suspicions that the act was intended to silence Ka Marcing, who was one of the main proponents of the fight of farm workers in the *hacienda* and a primary witness to the massacre."

Beltran was said to have told his family and colleagues in the peasant movement that members of the Philippine National Police had been asking for his whereabouts after the Nov. 16 strike.

"The perpetrators of the Nov. 16 massacre want people like Beltran silenced," said Rene Galang, the leader of the striking faction of the United Luisita Workers Union. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

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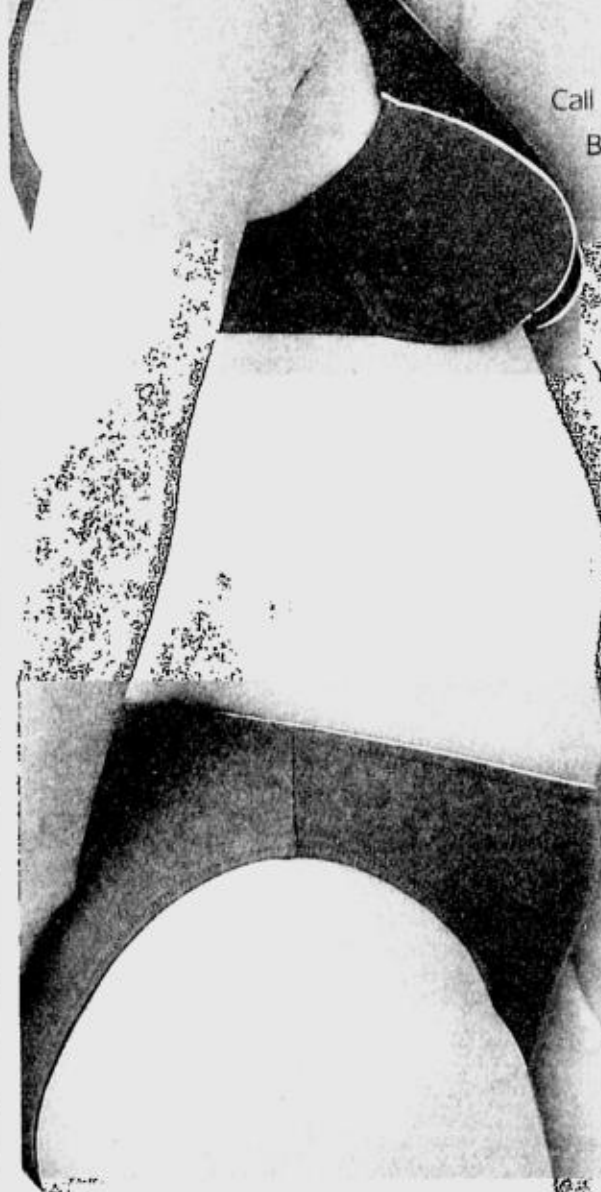

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Artist Pacita Abad dies

ARTIST Pacita Abad died on Tuesday in Singapore after a three-year battle with lung cancer and two months at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital. Pacita passed away in her sleep and was very comfortable when she died, said her husband, Jack Garrity.

Abad, 58, was known for her trapunto paintings, colorful and sensory fabric collages using embroidery and paint, which have also won her praise in Europe, New York and Asia. Her works reflected very much her personality. Friends remember her as a lively and energetic person.

Born in Basco, Batanes, Abad was raised in a politically active family. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of the Philippines in Diliman and originally wanted to be a lawyer. But that changed when she was sent to the United States a year before martial law.

It was there that she discovered art. She studied at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC, and The Art Students League in New York.

Together with Garrity, an American financial consultant, Abad has lived in over 100 countries, where she would always exhibit her works.

Abad was in Manila last September for her exhibit, "Circles In My Mind," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The works on paper were the result of a three-month residency program at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute.

Her body will be cremated in Singapore and a "Gathering of Friends" to celebrate Abad's life will be held at the Alkfaff Bridge on Dec. 11 at 10:30 a.m.

A memorial will be held in Manila, after which she will be flown to Batanes for the funeral. The exact dates for the memorial in Manila and the funeral in Batanes have not been decided yet, says Garrity.

Palace to House on budget: Thanks, but . . .

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE 2005 budget is good but we need cash (or new revenue measures).

This was Malacañang's message to legislators after the House of Representatives approved the P907.6-billion national budget for 2005 but Congress as a whole had yet to pass the eight tax measures requested by President Macapagal-Arroyo to stem the fiscal crisis.

"We thank the House for passing the budget. But everybody knows that what is more important now are our fiscal measures," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in an interview over dzRB radio.

"We can live with a slightly delayed budget, but our priority is to pass the revenue measures," Bunye added. "We all know we have very precious little time before Congress goes on their Christmas break."

Of the eight measures the President wanted passed by yearend, only the "sin tax" bill raising alcohol and tobacco levies, the lateral attrition bill and the tax amnesty bill have been passed by the House, while the other measures remain stuck in deliberations in the administration-dominated Congress.

The President, however, was elated by the approval of the budget which included a 40-percent cut in the pork barrel allocations of the congressmen.

In her speech during the 57th anniversary of the Philippine Government Employees Association in Malacañang, Ms Arroyo said: "We acknowledge the determination of Congress to pass the national budget which will be the cutting edge of political and economic stability and social reform. We have struck upon the right formula of institutional teamwork and national solidarity to fight corruption, cut waste, save the environment and grow investments to create jobs."

The House approved on Wednesday night the tax amnesty bill, the third of the eight revenue measures proposed by the President.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said the bill, which provides for a one-time amnesty for delinquent taxpayers covering 2003 and prior years, will "enlarge the country's tax base, which is one of the lowest in Southeast Asia."

"It will give delinquent taxpayers an attractive opportunity to rejoin the fold of national taxation," De Venecia said.

House Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said the chamber is set to pass a fourth measure, the rationalization of fiscal incentives, next week before Congress goes on recess.

"We're working overtime to pass these measures to arm the government with enough revenue laws to address the fiscal problem," Nograles said.

De Venecia said that, once signed into law, the four revenue measures will generate at least P50 billion for the government. *With Carlito Pablo*

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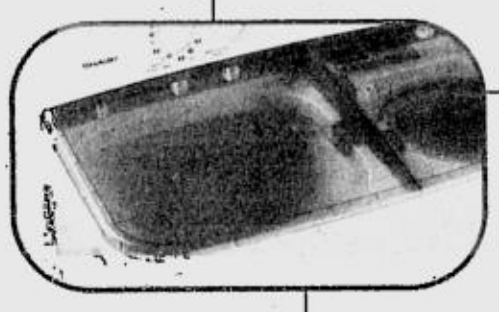

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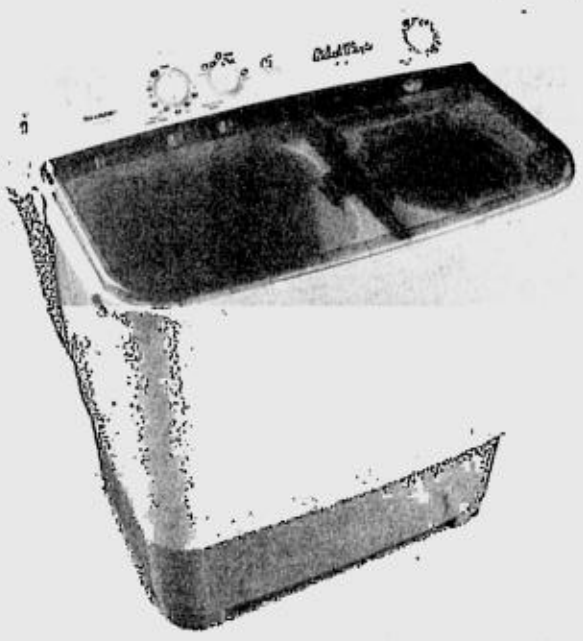

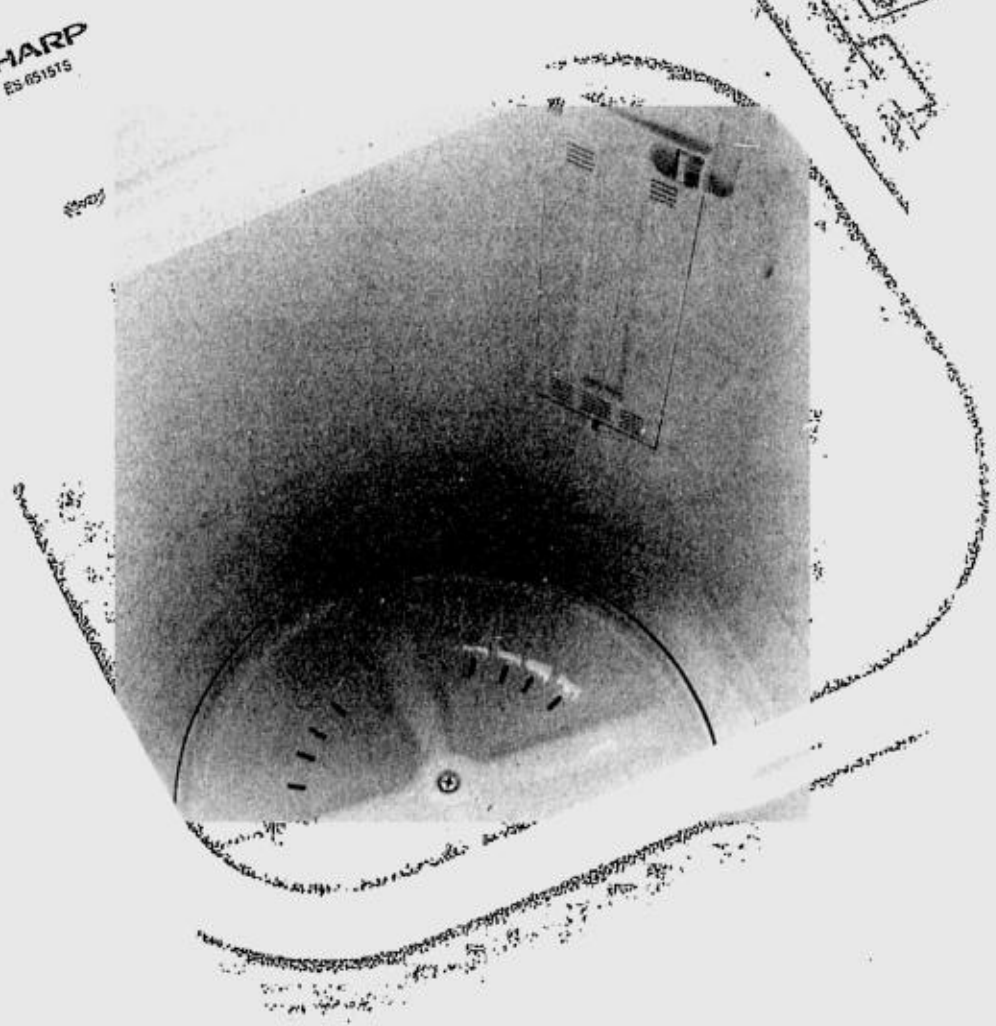

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RP seeks Saudi help on hostage

By TJ Burgonio

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday asked Saudi Arabian officials for help to win the release of a Filipino hostage in Iraq.

At the same time, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco asked the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to put in place security measures for Filipinos working in countries that abut Iraq.

Romulo met with the Saudi officials led by Sheikh Bin Abdullah Bin Humaid, president of Saudi Arabia's Consultative Council Majlis, to ask them to convince hostage Robert Tarongoy's Saudi employer to step up negotiations for his release.

"I stressed the need for their help. Through their good office, [they could] talk to Satco (Saudi Arabian Trading and Constructing Co.) to accelerate efforts to effect the release of Tarongoy," he said.

Tarongoy, 31, an accountant, was snatched at gunpoint from the Satco compound in Baghdad on Nov. 1 along with an American, a Nepalese and three Iraqis. Except for Tarongoy and the American, the other hostages had been freed. Yesterday, the two spent their 38th day in captivity without any hint of freedom soon.

Satco is reportedly negotiating Tarongoy's release in coordination with Filipino officials led by Undersecretary Rafael Seguis.

Ransom

The captors had demanded $10 million for the hostage's freedom but the government ruled out paying any ransom, saying the demand should be addressed by Satco.

Romulo said he also asked the Iranian government for help in obtaining Tarongoy's release in a meeting with Iranian Commerce Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari on Wednesday.

"There are elements in Iraq who have contacts with those who have Robert Tarongoy. We're working through the governments," he said in a press briefing.

For his part, Cuenco yesterday asked the OIC to put in place security measures for Filipinos in their respective countries.

Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, aired the appeal following the death of a Filipino telecommunications maintenance man employed by the US Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Saudi militants attacked the premises with explosives and machine guns on Monday.

Another Filipino, a carpenter at the same consulate, sustained gunshot wounds in the knee, elbow and pelvis but survived.

"If we do not come up soonest with a good plan designed to provide an effective security mantle for our countrymen working overseas, we better tell them to pack up and leave their job sites," Cuenco said. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

Felix S. Golla; 80

FELIX S. Golla, of Renton, Washington, and Baras, Rizal, died on Dec. 7 at the age of 80.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Leonor; children Gary, Frank and Kaye, Jun and Jenny, Cora, Glenn and Vicky, Eva and Matt, Lorna and John, and Nixon; grandchildren Karen, Keith, April, Ryosuke, Asami, Ryu, Mika, Bing, Joseph, Noy, Jeorgia, Jeo, Miggy, Alex, EJ, Kym, Jon, Gabo, TJ, Geeia, Bea, Sam and Katrina; brothers and sisters-in-law and their children: Pacing, Nick and Betty, Doming, and Crison and Coring.

He was preceded in death by his fourth son, Erwin, in 1998.

A Philippine Scout with the United States Armed Forces in the Far East during World War II, he was later stationed in Okinawa, Japan. After his military stint, he obtained a civil engineering degree at the Mapua Institute of Technology and went into government service until his retirement in 1984.

He migrated to the US in 1987 where he worked in various capacities until 1997.

A memorial service will be held at Greenwood Memorial Park Chapel in Renton on Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. after which he will be laid to rest at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA.

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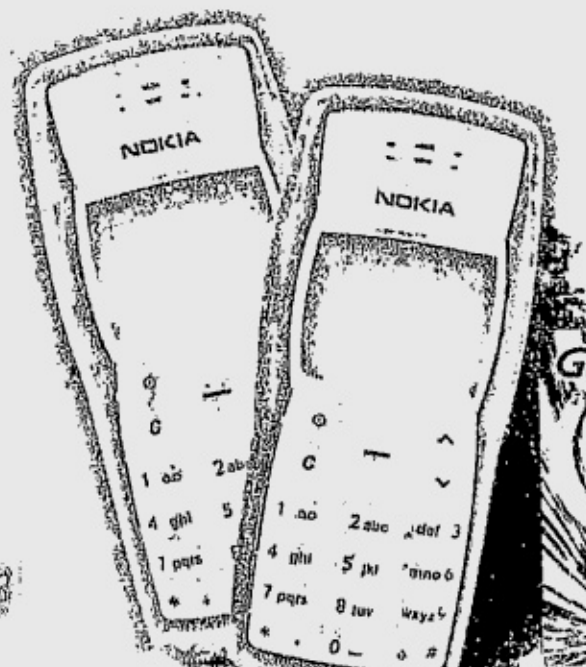

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95 deported Pinoys arrive

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—At least 95 Filipinos deported by the United States for overstaying and other criminal charges arrived at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here on Thursday morning.

The group, the ninth batch of deportees since 2003, arrived at 9:45 a.m. on board a Boeing 737 of Miami Air. The aircraft fetched the passengers from San Francisco in California, Honolulu in Hawaii, US Commonwealth of Mariana Islands and Guam.

The deportees, 88 men and seven women, were accompanied by agents of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

To protect the privacy of the deportees, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Social Welfare and Development asked them to proceed to the Haribon terminal of the Philippine Air Force in the DMIA complex. It was at the military air terminal where the deportees were fetched by their relatives. *Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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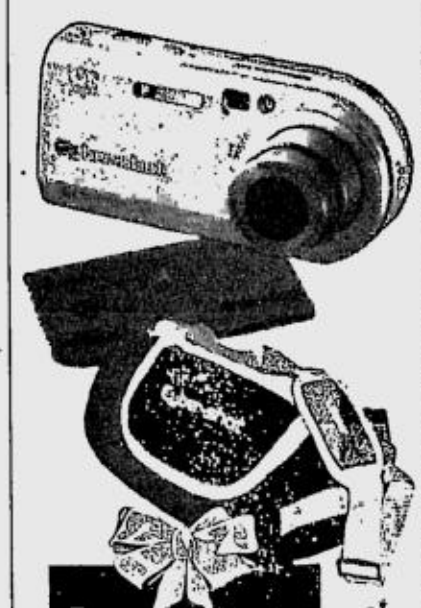
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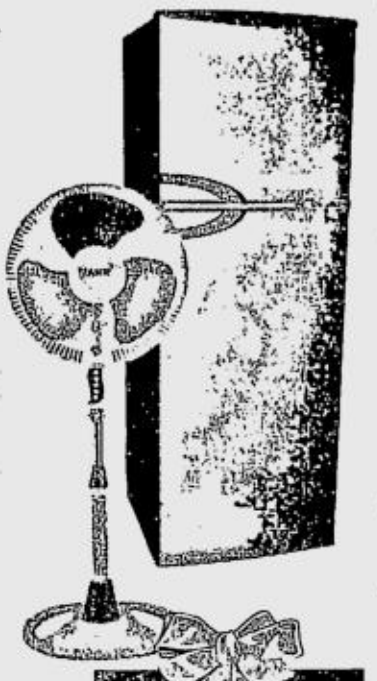
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Defensor suspends DENR's top man in Calabarzon

By Norman Bordadora

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday sacked the highest environment official to be linked thus far to illegal logging operations in the flash flood and landslide-affected areas in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) region.

Defensor suspended Calabarzon regional environment chief Regidor Galinato and four other officials for the questionable release of more than 3,500 board feet of timber products from Mauban, Quezon, soon after Typhoon "Yoyong" battered the province.

The timber products were released on Dec. 3 just before President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the suspension of logging operations.

Galinato was placed on preventive suspension for 90 days as were Herminio Salvosa, officer in charge of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources station in Mauban, Quezon; forest rangers Eduardo Palonzo and Manny Mercado, and scaler Geronimo Agpoon.

The timber products were released using recycled documents, Defensor said.

The secretary added that joint operations of the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force headed by retired Gen. Victor Corpus and the DENR showed that timber products going out of Quezon were not in the PNP records.

"The timber products going out of Quezon were not reflected in the checkpoint records," Defensor said.

Defensor said the timber products released from Mauban on Dec. 3 were covered by tampered documents.

The certification made by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Mauban town showed that the timber products were released to a certain Joel Ayala of San Jose, Bulacan, presumably an owner of a furniture business in the province.

While the timber was released on Dec. 3, it was bid for sale as early as August this year. It was covered by a deed of sale with the Natural Resources Development Corp. dated Aug. 20, 2004.

"If it was bid in August and was released only in December, it would have already rotted," Defensor said.

It's lights out at Marcos mausoleum

BATAC, Ilocos Norte—The local power company has again shut down the power supply to the Marcos compound and mausoleum, which houses the frozen remains of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, due to the Marcoses' failure to pay a two-year electric bill worth P420,000.

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (Inec) cut off power at the mausoleum on Tuesday after it failed to collect the amount despite several notices of disconnection sent to the Marcos family.

But Inec restored the power supply on Wednesday after Mayor Jesus Nalupta guaranteed company officials that the bill would be paid "as soon as possible."

Reports here said former first lady Imelda Marcos called Nalupta and asked that the mayor intercede on her behalf and reconnect the power supply.

Edwin Pascua, Inec zone manager, said the disconnection was in response to consumers' call for the company to implement its disconnection policy uniformly regardless of the users' status in the community.

"It is high time to show consumers that we mean business. Our policy on disconnection due to unpaid accounts must be applied without fear or favor," Pascua told the INQUIRER.

"It is always difficult to shut down the power to the Marcos compound because this would cause damage to the late president's remains. But it is a difficult choice we have to make," he said.

The account, under the name of Mrs. Marcos, represents bills beginning November 2002 until November this year.

The bill was incurred for the power being supplied to the mausoleum, the family's mansion and a part of the museum, all within the Marcos compound here. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Abenson Libis Exhibit	Nov. 20 - Dec. 19	Robinsons Galleria-Eastwing, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City
Automatic Plasma Pleasures Exhibit	Dec. 13 - Dec. 26	Activity Center, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City
Flat & Slim Roadshow Edsa Shangri-La Mall	Dec. 17 - Dec. 19	Metrolink Area, EDSA Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong City
Flat & Slim Roadshow Glorietta 3	Jan. 26 - Jan. 30	Makati Mall Cupola, Lower Level between Marks & Spencer and Cinderella

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4. Keep Christmas lights untangled to prevent short circuits.
5. Don't overload on Christmas lights to prevent fires.
6. Don't plug all your Christmas lights in one socket. Use multiple outlets.
7. Keep flammable objects away from your Christmas lights. All incandescent light sources, no matter how small they are, produce heat and may cause fire.
8. Make sure all the bulbs in your Christmas lights are working. A defective bulb can affect the performance of your Christmas lights.
9. For lights and decors outside your homes and offices, use only those designated for outdoor use.
10. Unplug Christmas lights before replacing a bulb to prevent electrocution.
11. Use bulbs of lower wattage for your Christmas light fixtures so you can save on your electric bill.
12. It is not the number of Christmas lights you have on that make for a bright Christmas. It's the light in our hearts that glows the brightest.

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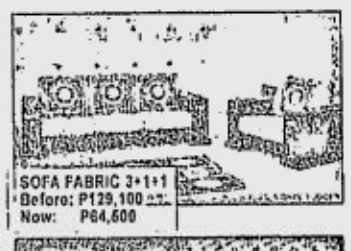
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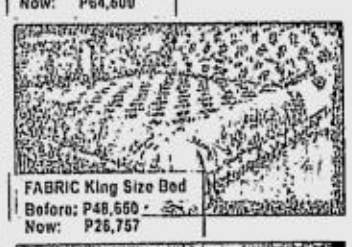
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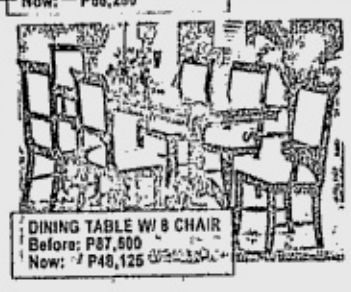
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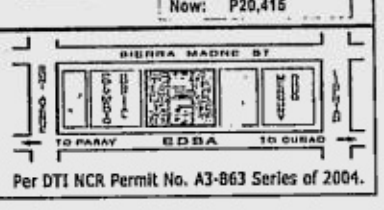

Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3-863 Series of 2004.

US soldiers assail conduct of Iraq war

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday faced open criticism from his own US troops, who complained about inadequate armor for Iraq and questioned a policy that stops them from leaving the military when their voluntary term ends.

The unusually blunt public exchange came at a town hall-style session with American soldiers at this camp 20 km south of the border with Iraq, where more than 1,200 US troops have died since the March 2003 invasion.

Hundreds of troops applauded a comrade who complained to Rumsfeld that US forces were being forced to dig up scrap metal to protect their vehicles in Iraq because of a shortage of armored ones.

"Now why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-armor our vehicles? And why don't we have those resources readily available to us?" the soldier asked.

Rumsfeld asked the soldier to repeat the question.

The soldier said, "A lot of us are getting ready to move north (into Iraq) relatively soon. Our vehicles are not armored. We're digging pieces of rusted scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass that's already been shot up, dropped, busted—picking the best out of this scrap to put on our vehicles to take into combat."

"We do not have proper armament vehicles to carry with us north."

Rumsfeld conceded that "not every vehicle has the degree of armor that it would be desirable for it to have," and said the Army was hurrying to provide more armored vehicles, adding 400 per month.

But Rumsfeld added, "As you know, you go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

"If you think about it, you can have all the armor in the world on a tank and a tank can be blown up. And you can have an up-armored Humvee and it can be blown up," Rumsfeld said.

Rumsfeld also faced other questions about equipment shortages and the US role in Iraq after elections scheduled for Jan. 30.

"Now settle down, settle down. Hell, I'm an old man, and it's early in the morning. I'm just gathering my thoughts here," the 72-year-old Rumsfeld said lightheartedly at one point.

In Washington, Democratic Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut called Rumsfeld's comments about the armor "stunning," and said in a letter to the secretary, "Your response—'You go to war with the Army you have'—is utterly unacceptable."

The Army has acknowledged problems in supplying sufficient numbers of the armored Humvee, a light vehicle that without extra armor can be especially vulnerable to attacks by insurgents using roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades.

At the Pentagon, chief spokesperson Lawrence Di Rita said US Central Command, responsible for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, had asked for 21,000 Humvees with extra armor, and about 19,000 had been provided.

Bush administration officials, in particular Rumsfeld, have repeatedly rejected charges that insufficient forces were sent to Iraq after last year's invasion to stabilize the country, which is now in the grip of a bloody insurrection.

Another soldier asked Rumsfeld what the Pentagon was doing "to address shortages and antiquated equipment that National Guard soldiers... are going to roll into Iraq with?" The soldier was referring to allegations that regular Army units have been given better equipment than reservists.

"No way I can prove it, but I'm told that the Army is breaking its neck to see that there is not a differentiation" in the quality of equipment, Rumsfeld said.

Another soldier asked Rumsfeld about the Army's "stop-loss" policy that has prevented thousands of troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan from leaving the military when their volunteer service commitment ends. *Reuters*

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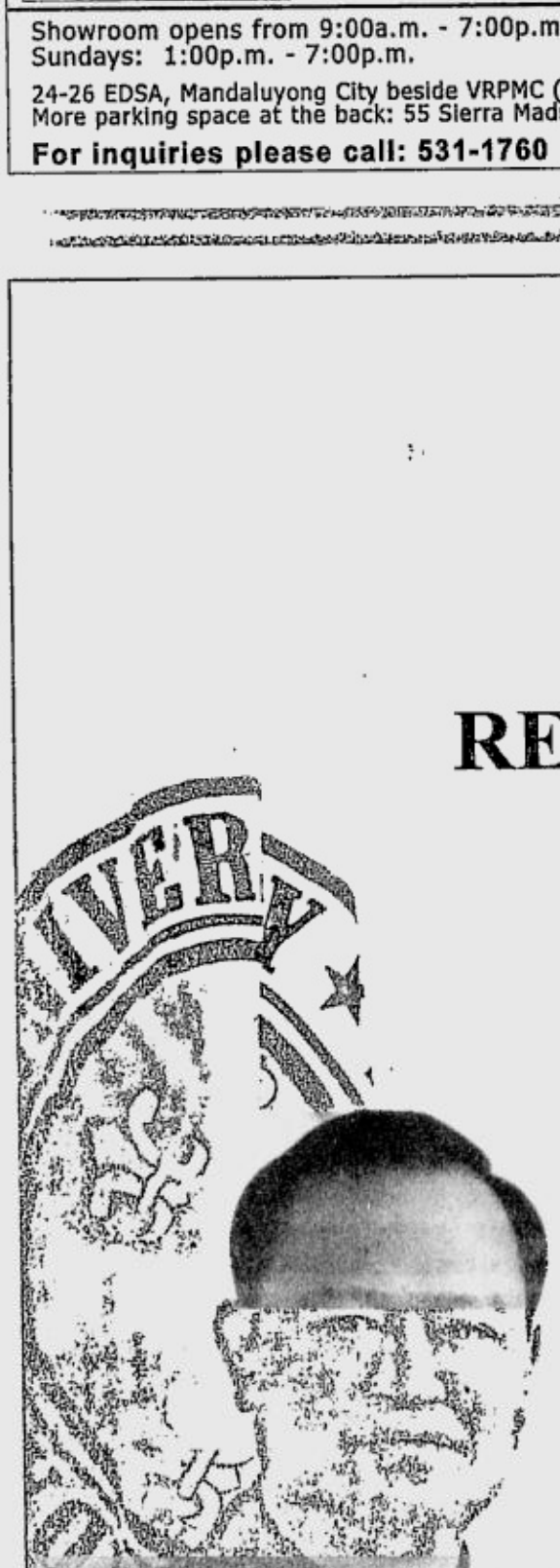

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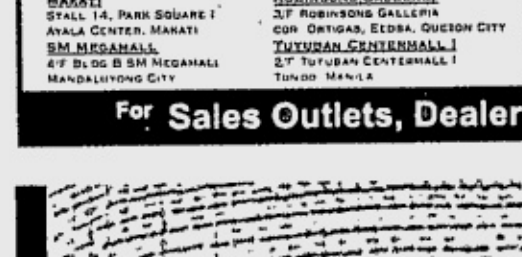

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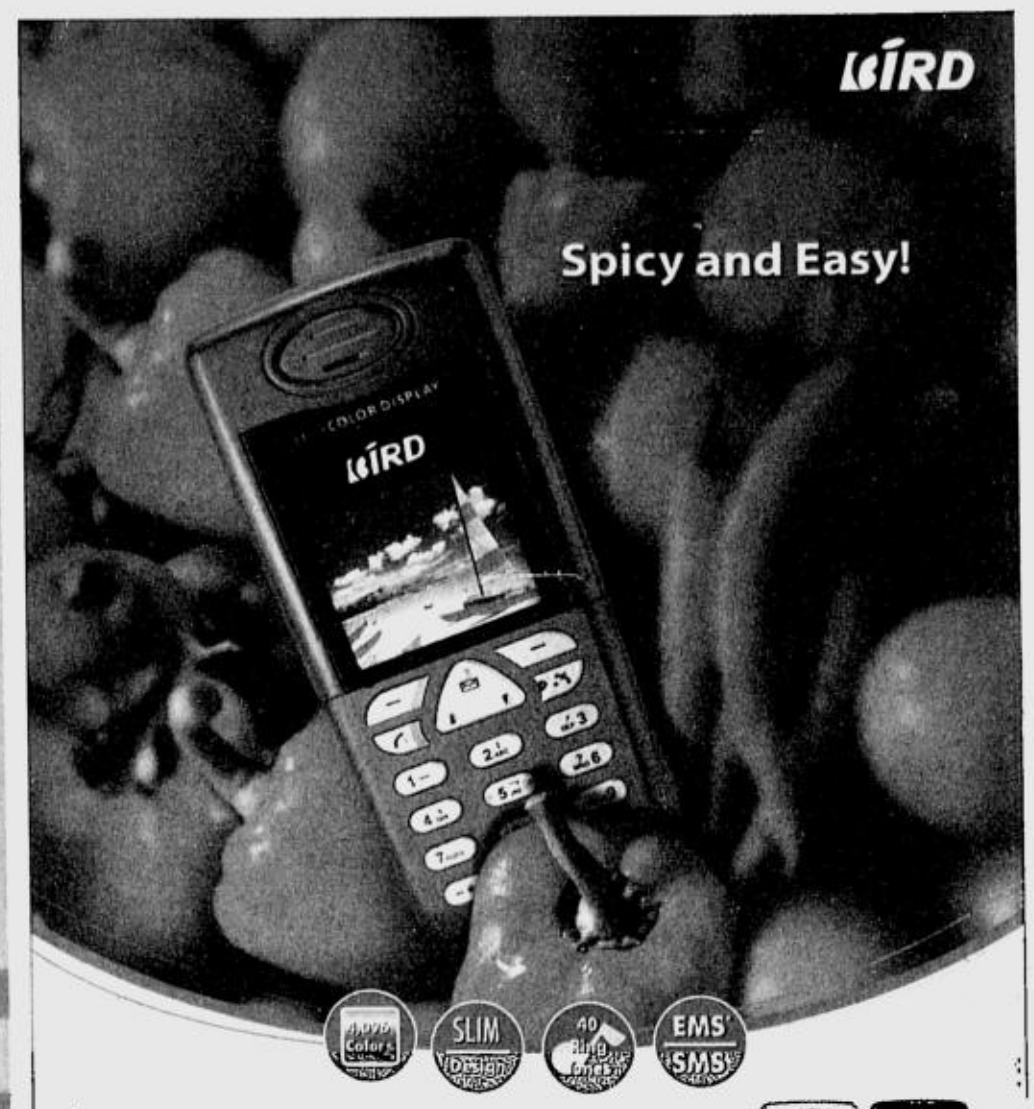

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Sharon pledges to rein in Israel offensives

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon bolstered mounting peace hopes Wednesday by saying Israel would hold off offensive operations against the Palestinians in the absence of attacks by militant organizations.

Sharon ruled out a formal truce with radical groups such as Hamas but said Israel would only pursue what he called "ticking bombs," referring to militants who are about to carry out attacks.

"The question of a truce would involve an agreement among the Palestinians and is not linked to us. But if calm reigns on the Palestinian side, we will maintain it on our side," Sharon told reporters.

His comments mark a significant change of policy by Israel, which has spent much of the past year hunting down leaders and fighters of the militant groups, assassinating two of Hamas' leaders in the Gaza Strip in air strikes.

Sharon is keen to encourage the emergence of a more moderate Palestinian leadership following last month's death of Yasser Arafat.

He is aware that offensive operations would undermine ongoing efforts by new PLO chair Mahmud Abbas to persuade armed factions to halt their campaign of anti-Israeli attacks.

Israel also officially regarded as an internal Palestinian matter a unilateral truce called in the summer of 2003 during Abbas' short-lived time as premier, but held back from launching attacks against all but ticking bombs.

Abbas, who is standing for election on Jan. 9 to replace Arafat as Palestinian Authority president, has been lobbying hard for a new such arrangement.

He held talks Monday with Hamas' Damascus-based supremo Khaled Meshaal after several earlier meetings with faction leaders in the occupied territories.

A poll published Wednesday showed a vast majority of Israelis are increasingly optimistic about the prospects for peace in the aftermath of Arafat's death on Nov. 11. *AFP*

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YEAR IN REVIEW
People injured by an explosion in a train wait for aid outside the train station of Atocha in Madrid, Spain, in this March 11, 2004 photo. The toll from the bombings was 191 dead and more than 1,800 injured. AP

Ukraine parliament breaks tense impasse

KIEV—Ukraine's parliament passed a controversial plan to weaken the presidency Wednesday, breaking a tense standoff between outgoing President Leonid Kuchma and the opposition and smoothing the way for a new presidential poll on Dec. 26.

The vote was hailed in Ukraine and abroad as a breakthrough in the political crisis that has split this strategic nation in two polarized camps and fueled Cold War-like rhetoric between Russia and the West.

"After 17 days of peaceful protest, we have claimed victory," opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko told tens of thousands of supporters in Kiev's central square whose round-the-clock protests were key to the advance of his "orange revolution."

By a crushing majority of 402 to 21, deputies in the Upper Rada approved a Kuchma-backed amendment, which transfers many of the president's powers to parliament, along with electoral law changes demanded by the opposition.

The chamber erupted in applause as the result appeared on a huge electronic board on the wall and the 66-year-old Kuchma, who made a rare appearance in the chamber to urge support for his favored legislation, was among those clapping.

"Ukraine has gone through crisis several times and we always had the political will and understanding to make the right decisions," he told lawmakers minutes before the vote.

"This is an act of consolidation and reconciliation that proves Ukraine is united and indivisible," parliament speaker Volodymyr Litvin said afterward.

Yushchenko hailed it as "a day of compromise that... opens the way for my victory" in the Dec. 26 rematch with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

Yanukovich by contrast slammed "a coup d'etat (that) is slowly taking place in the country today... Chaos reigns and decisions are only taken by force."

With tears in his eyes, hand on his heart and his neck wrapped in a trademark orange scarf, Yushchenko hailed his supporters in a late night speech in Kiev's central Independence Square.

"We are grateful to all those who helped make Ukraine's orange revolution a reality," he said, flanked by his allies and family, as the crowd erupted into chants of "Yushchen-ko!" and "Way to go!" that have now become familiar in the square. *AFP*

N. Ireland peace deal left undone, Blair, Ahern admit

BELFAST—The British and Irish leaders conceded Wednesday that their plan to restore power-sharing government to Northern Ireland was 'incomplete' but stressed that a definitive peace deal hinged on the sole dispute over how to carry out IRA disarmament.

"What has been achieved is remarkable, but not yet complete," Prime Minister Tony Blair said in Belfast alongside his Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern, adding that he was determined to "finish the journey" and resolve the deadlock.

Blair's announcement followed efforts by Dublin and London to revive the peace process by getting the main Protestant group, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), to agree to share power with the main Catholic party Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

The main stumbling block remains the DUP demand for photographic documentation of the disarming of the IRA—a demand which Sinn Fein feels is intended by the DUP to "humiliate" the paramilitary group.

Blair refused to concede failure, saying there was "an inevitability in the process that is now locked in."

Ahern, Blair's partner in getting Protestants and Catholics together under the 1998 Good Friday peace accords, urged the two parties to remain engaged, despite the hardline DUP's refusal up to now to even sit down at the same negotiating table with Sinn Fein.

"As we maintain our efforts on this initiative, everybody needs to play their part in creating a climate that is conducive to getting matters over the line," the Irish leader said, suggesting that agreement could still be found before Christmas.

He rejected the idea that photo-documenting disarmament would humiliate the IRA, saying: "The forms of transparency that are proposed in the government's proposals... have nothing to do with surrender or humiliation. Certainty and clarity are two-way streets." *AFP*

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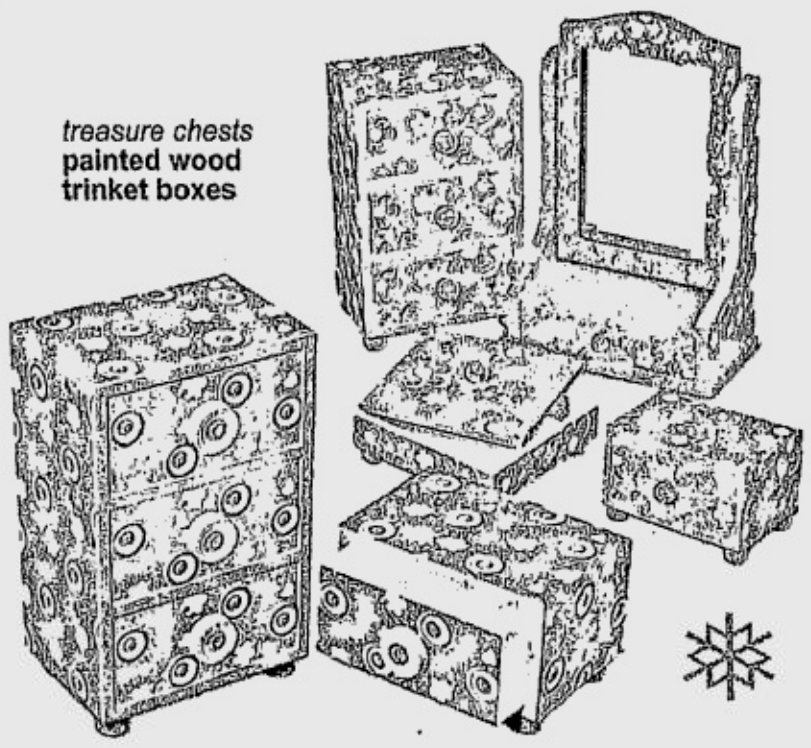

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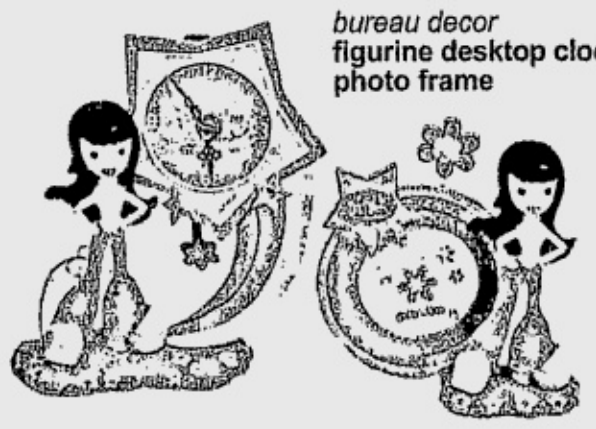

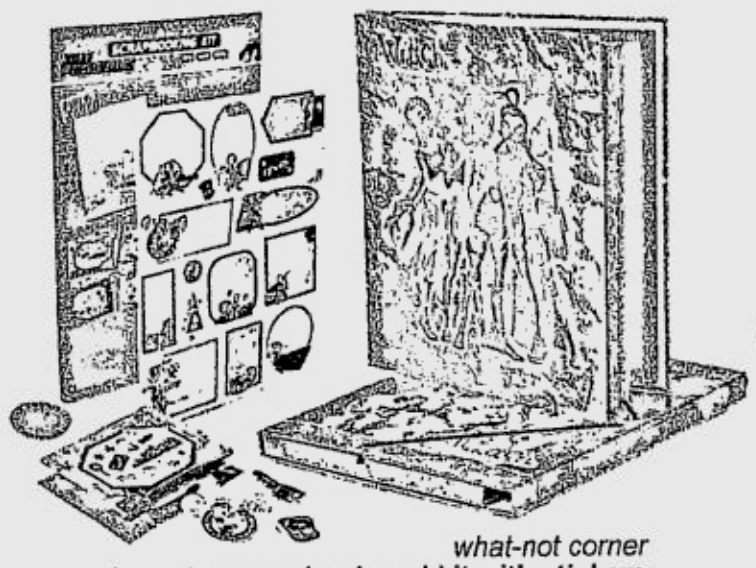

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character scrapbook and kit with stickers

color wheel
art stuff in stow-away pack

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your holi

pretty in blue
off-shoulder cotton blouse with matching pleated skirt, knee-high socks

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growing up fashion

step right up
Skechers strappy wedges

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zip up jacket and vest with geometric accents

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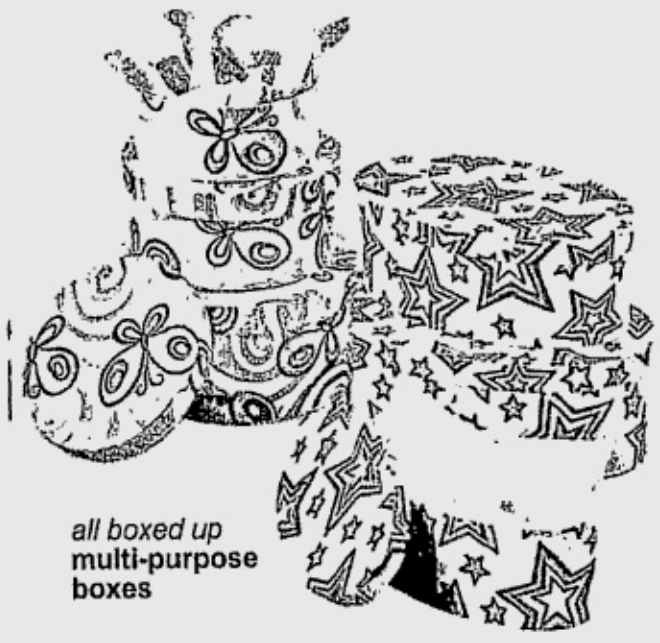

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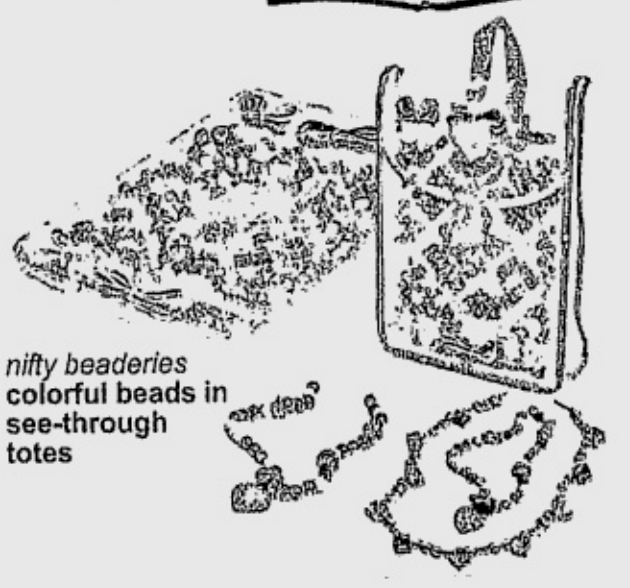

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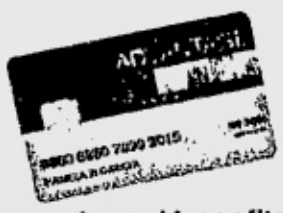

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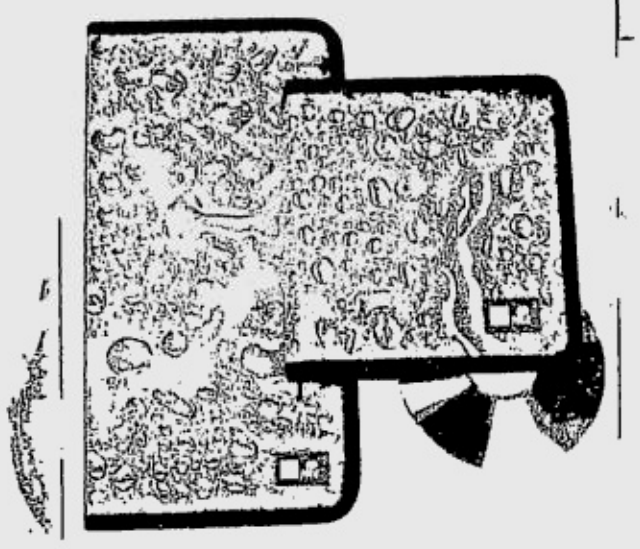

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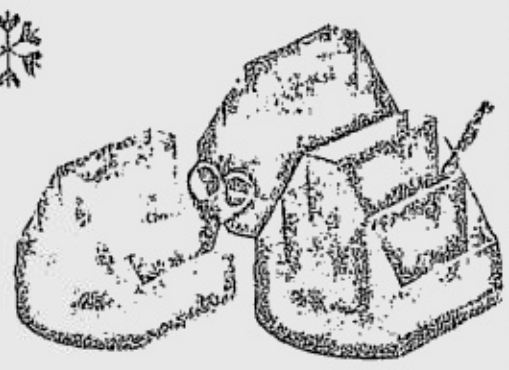

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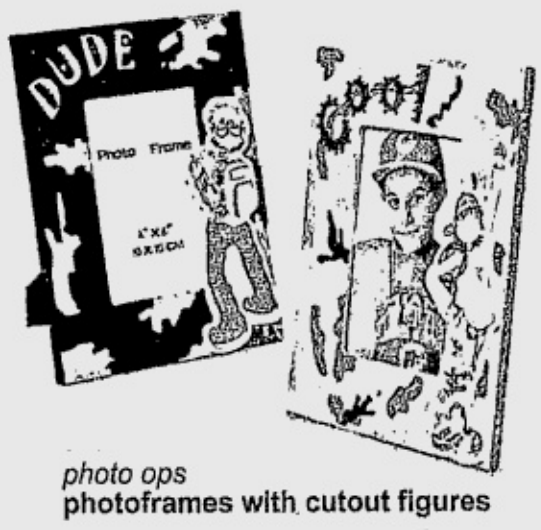

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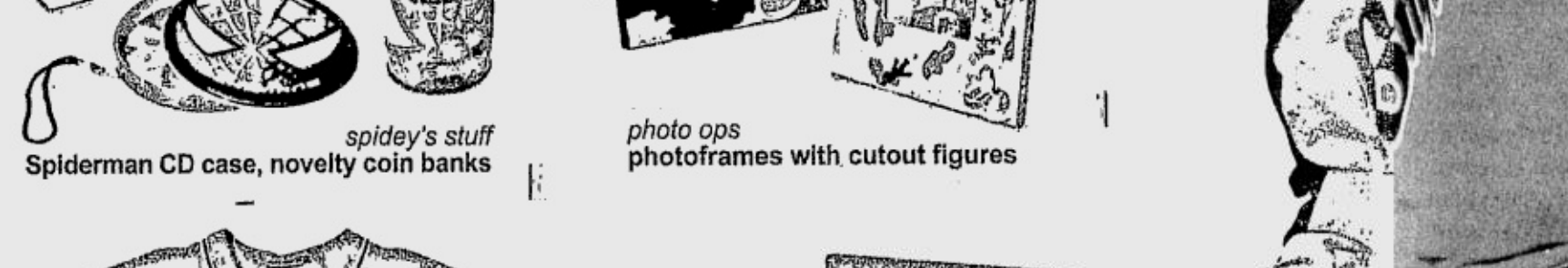

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Year of infamy

EDITORIAL

ON DEC. 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, journalists in the Philippines have come together to remind their readers, viewers and listeners of Article 19 of the declaration, to which our country was among the original signatories: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

About 100 media organizations and individuals have signed a pooled statement drafted by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP). Timed for the observance of International Human Rights Day, the statement points out that while journalists in other countries are jailed, or are subject to harsh censorship and media laws, media practitioners in the Philippines are paying an even greater—indeed, the ultimate—price: they are being murdered with impunity.

The statement, drafted by the NUJP, says that "The Philippine press will remember 2004 as a year of infamy. We have lost 13 colleagues in what could be work-related murders, the highest number in history." The concern expressed by Filipino media people is shared by their colleagues the world over. Reporters Without Borders has expressed its deep concern. After Iraq, the Philippines is the world's most dangerous country for journalists, the group says, adding that the Philippine government must "urgently come up with some fresh approaches to halt this wave of violence against the press."

In condemning the killings, media practitioners point out that press freedom is both a universal and specifically Filipino right, "enshrined in the Constitution, not because a special sector demands special privilege, but because it helps ensure adherence to all other basic civil liberties." Indeed, the statement adds that "media groups are aware that our profession does not suffer alone. We also condemn the killings of judges, lawyers, anti-corruption advocates and human rights workers nationwide."

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in leading the government observance of "National Human Rights Consciousness Week," says the "worst violators of human rights" are from the New People's Army. That is her view. However, such a view ignores the fact that rebels of any stripe operate outside the law, while the government is duty-bound not just to enforce the law, but to live according to the law. And the most basic law of all is the Constitution. When a government fails to both protect its citizens, and punish the perpetrators of high crimes, it joins the ranks of those living beyond the pale of the law.

The President, speaking in Malacañang, praised the Commission on Human Rights and the Armed Forces of the Philippines for their "quiet but unremitting cooperation in the human rights education of our military personnel." She must have forgotten recent cases of callous treatment, if not outright intimidation, of media people by the military, and the remarkable ineptness of the police in investigating and apprehending the murders of media men. The President should have read Human Rights Commission Chair Purificacion Quisumbing's report saying that 33 percent of complaints about human rights violations filed with the CHR were allegedly committed by the police, while local officials and employees accounted for another 13 percent of cases. Of the 1,001 cases filed with the CHR from January to September this year, 812 were cases involving allegations of civil rights violations.

What the Philippine media are calling for is what every Filipino citizen is entitled to: freedom from intimidation and harassment; the chance to practice one's livelihood undeterred by terrorism; the swift and effective prosecution of crimes; and the safety of witnesses and other people who can help in the the prosecution of cases. We insist on what everyone should expect and demand: a government whose officials, soldiers and policemen protect the people, instead of harassing them or proving powerless to render them aid and justice. The recourse of all decent people should be the courts, the ventilation of public opinion, never the assassin's gun.

Use pork barrel for rehab, forest protection

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE were three significant stories the other day: (1) the Pulse Asia survey showing 84 percent of Filipinos in favor of either cutting or abolishing the pork barrel; (2) the Department of Social Welfare and Development has run out of funds for relief operations; and (3) the continuing debate on a logging ban and forest protection.

The survey also showed that "79 percent of respondents believe more than half or more of the budget of a project (funded by the pork barrel) goes to corruption." In short, you can't fool the people. They know where the money is going. Each congressman will get P70 million in pork next year, and each senator will get P200 million.

Malacañang had submitted a budget proposal with the pork funds cut by 40 percent (to only P40 million per congressman) to save P10 billion because of the fiscal crisis, but the lawmakers defied the President and restored the full P70 million. In contrast, the House appropriated only P69 million for forest protection for one year. Repeat: the annual budget to protect millions of hectares of forests throughout the Philippines is even less than the pork of one congressman. Isn't that a crying shame? Meanwhile, the DSWD can no longer provide enough relief goods to the storm victims because it has run out of funds.

The INQUIRER headline said: "Poll shames solons on pork." But Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas said the "pork barrel was nothing to be ashamed of."

Congressmen are already too thick-skinned to be ashamed of anything. But isn't it timely, because of the tragedy that the storms have wrought and the lack of funds to help and rehabilitate the victims, to totally abolish the pork barrel now and use the money for forest protection and for rehabilitation of the people and places hit hard by the floods and landslides?

Anyway, congressmen claim that the pork is for the people, so let's use the funds intended for the pork barrel to really help the people and protect the forests so the tragedy that befell Real, Nakar and Infanta won't happen again.

The lawmakers can't object to that (unless they're selfish), and the people will applaud that.

The Senate can still realign the appropriations, and if it doesn't, the President can veto the allocation for the pork. That will show who is the boss.

Come to think of it, who really is the boss? President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the suspension of all logging operations, but two of her Cabinet members are defying her. Environment Secretary Michael Defensor is defending the loggers and Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima is opposing a total log ban, saying it would be bad for the economy. If Cabinet members don't agree with the President and can't obey her orders, shouldn't they resign?

Defensor even relaxed, on his own, the presidential ban by allowing the mass cutting and transport of timber from "private plantations." These are different from public lands: private firms planted the trees there and it seems only fair that they should be allowed to harvest them. But the trouble with this arrangement is that it leaves the door open for private plantation operators to poach on public forests and then claim that the timber came from their own plantations.

This was what the licensed loggers (whom Defensor is defending) have been doing. They hired poachers to cut timber from public forests and then claimed that these came from their concessions.

For his part, Purisima said that with a total log ban, we would have to import lumber for our needs. But do you know that we still export logs and lumber even if we are already running out of forests to cut?

And what's wrong with importing? We are importing almost everything else anyway. Other countries like Japan import most of their wood needs while preserving their own forests. Even the wood for their chopsticks is imported.

Besides, our construction industry is very wasteful in the use of wood. Builders should learn to use less wood. The wood used for scaffolding of any one project, for example, is enough to lay to waste one whole forest. After the construction is finished, this wood is not good for anything else but firewood. At this rate of wastage, even our coconut plantations, now that coco lumber is being used for scaffolding, will be gone soon.

Modern construction methods use steel for scaffolding. They can be used again and again. But many contractors still use wood because it is still relatively cheap. If wood is expensive because of scarcity, they will learn to use steel instead.

In the United States, tropical hardwoods are so expensive that they are used only as accents in furniture. They are never used for flooring or walls or posts like we do here.

In fact, our builders should study the new technology in construction in the United States. Instead of wood, they use substitutes made of plastics, vinyl and other petrochemical products.

Homes with clapboard walls in the New England states use plastic. They look like wood, complete with grains and whorls, but they're not. Indoor walling can look like wood, marble, granite, brick, or tiles, but they're really plastic. Whole bathrooms come in one piece, complete with toilets, bathtubs, washbowl, floor and walls.

These construction materials would be ideal for the Philippines. They're cheap, light, don't rot like wood does, termite and fungus-proof, plus you don't have to paint them. They come in different colors.

What's more, they will help save our forests. And, Secretary Purisima, saving our forests is more important than our balance of payments. Once the forests are gone, they're gone. But the economy rises and falls regularly.

Soft state: Missing the forest and the trees

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE RECENT landslides have drowned the voice of sobriety in cries of indignation, and those who champion the morally compelling total log ban prevail over those who speak the wisdom of a policy-based selective ban.

Indignation calls for a total ban. Anything less will create loopholes that will be pulled and stretched to elastic extremes until the exception eventually becomes the rule. Anything less will continue the supply of logs that feed the chain of corruption from the first police checkpoint, to the shipping ports, to the portals of high government. Anything less will sustain the "revolutionary taxation" by the people's purported liberators. Anything less will keep open (pardon the metaphor) the floodgates of indiscriminate logging in the country. And he who advocates anything less, they say, should be tarred and feathered as an enemy of the people.

"When the whole world is mad, 'tis folly to be sane." The voice of sobriety proposes a selective ban that will enable the long-term cultivation of replenishable tree farms. Indeed, a total ban will hit the real "village people": subsistence farmers who forage for firewood and the other rudiments of life. Even today, they already bear the brunt of the enforcement of forestry laws. My younger sister, Judge Rowena P. Socrates of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, sadly recounts to me how in the courts it is the poor lowly foragers who typically stand accused but rarely the big-time loggers. Just look at the confiscated cuttings, mere "flitches" of wood. And it falls upon her as a judge, alas, merely to enforce the law upon the facts presented in the actual "case and controversy" before her while agonizing that the truly guilty have remained unindicted.

The fear is genuine that well-meant regulations will merely require more permits, and each permit issuer along the way will merely ask for his share of the loot. Fine-tuned regulations begin with noble intentions but end up merely creating "rent-seeking" moments, or opportunities for graft and corruption by government officers, or for arm-twisting by the vanguards of the Philippine revolution.

The fear is genuine that if we have selective logging, irresponsible tree murderers will be selected over responsible tree cultivators. We know our country all too well. Hence the move to ban logging across-the-board to simplify enforcement and eliminate all rent-seeking opportunities.

The fear therefore is that the Republic, a "soft state," is incapable of enforcing nuanced laws and would best minimize discretion, indeed minimize any thinking done at ground level, because every thought is a step toward compromise and corruption. Enlightened edicts issued by imperial Manila are watered down, diluted and ignored out there in the field. (An AFP controller can keep a congressional hearing at bay, citing no better medical reason than sleep apnea, a limp excuse that bespeaks not just lack of creativity—even college students can concoct better alibis, e.g., "the printer file wouldn't upload"—but even worse, a lack of respect for the elected legislators.)

The "soft state" recalls the 1960s seminal work "Asian Drama" by Swedish author Gunnar Myrdal, referring to governments that "require extraordinarily little of their citizens" and "even those obligations that do exist are enforced inadequately, if at all." Elsewhere the soft state is described as one "where breaking rules and flouting laws is a cultural norm." Whereas in Western states the sense of communal obligation began with the village and was organically perfected into the state, in colonial states that process was stunted, leading to the "decay of the ancient village organization without the creation of a substitute." Worse, the anti-colonial struggles romanticized rebellion against authority, leading to an "anarchic attitude" that the newly independent natives then turned against their own.

This is not to excuse ourselves and once again blame others, conveniently shifting fault to the colonial encounter. This is rather to understand the ongoing debate. We may sound like a "Strong Republic" when we purport to carry out a total ban on logging, much like the total ban on *jueteng* which, last I heard, was famously successful. However, we instead confess to being a "soft state" and make our collective mea culpa that we, as nation, are willing to sweep away the vulnerable and the responsible together with the greedy because we dread having to pick and choose one from the other, and worse, that we would rather play it safe with being rhetorically correct than take a chance with being legally imperfect.

The zen masters say that the wise warrior will hone a blunt sword to make it sharp but not so sharp that the blade becomes brittle. The debate that has raged since the storm compels us to choose between the bluntness of a total ban and the soft state's brittle enforcement of a partial ban.

On a happier note, I draw strength from the outpouring of public giving for relief work, proof that the Filipino cares and will put his money where his mouth is. It shows that the problem lies not in our hearts—we share the grief of the bereaved father, mother and child. The problem lies not in our capacity to work collectively; to those who say that Filipinos are people who excel as individuals but never as a team, let them see the fervor of civil society giving relief. The true mystery is why we falter the moment we act collectively through the state, and why the quintessential embodiment of the public good swiftly descends to wanton spoliation by private greed. In the short-term, let's face it: We succeed best as a group when we mobilize the caring Filipino without the mediation of the state.

* * *

Comments to raul.pangalangan@up.edu.ph

Deflecting the issue

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PULSE ASIA survey that found 84 percent of Filipinos in favor of either reducing or abolishing the congressional pork barrel has struck a raw nerve among congressmen. Their reaction was to defend the pork, suggesting that there's nothing wrong with it while at the same time attacking the survey's methodology, thereby deflecting the issue away from its abuse.

One congressman said the survey "does not reflect the reality on the ground, which is that our constituents appreciate the projects we're bringing home through our pork barrel." Some suggested that rather than taking seriously findings of opinion polls, the issue should be submitted to a national referendum.

According to the survey, 54 percent said the pork barrel funds should be merely reduced and not totally eliminated, while a smaller percentage (35) wanted it abolished, and only 16 percent favored retaining the pork at its current level.

There's little doubt that if pork were submitted to a referendum, it would win hands down, simply because the infusion of pork-barrel funds into local projects brings visible results that are no less than vote buying. There's no question that roads, school houses, irrigation units, artesian wells, basketball courts, health centers will be "appreciated" by congressmen's constituents. But the conversion of pork barrel funds into local projects begs the question.

The issue is about abuse of the pork barrel funds and it is tied to corruption in that the pork represents leakage of and inefficient use of public funds. It is linked to kickbacks from contracts for the construction of projects. The Pulse Asia survey reflects public revulsion to the linkage between pork and corruption, not revulsion to the pork barrel per se. So, by proposing a referendum on the pork, congressmen are misrepresenting the issue, raising the wrong issue and are seeking to cloak abuse of the pork-barrel funds with the legitimacy derived from referendum results.

A referendum ought to be an argument against abuse of the pork barrel. It would demonstrate that the projects funded by public works are being used to buy electoral favor to legitimize the corruption and wasteful use of the pork.

One finding of the survey cannot be ignored. It found that "79 percent of respondents believe that half or more of the budget of a project or program of a legislator goes to corruption." It's fair to say that local constituencies expect their congressmen to bring projects to their electorates, but that it would be in their interests that public monies are spent exclusively on projects rather than siphoned off to congressmen's pockets as kickbacks.

The administration has cut by 40 percent to P40 million the pork barrel of each congressman and to P120 million that of each senator in the 2005 national budget, as a cost-cutting measure to avert a fiscal crisis. The proposed cuts were estimated to save almost P10 billion. But the House of Representatives last month decided to retain the full P70 million pork barrel for each member.

One finding tended to show that neither the administration nor the legislature was serious about taking tough measures to curb the deficit. According to the survey, President Macapagal-Arroyo had failed to convince the public that her package of economic reforms was the answer to the fiscal and debt problems. The survey said 63 percent of respondents believed that the President had "no adequate" response to the fiscal and debt woes; 35 percent said the government did not have effective programs; and 28 percent could not say one way or the other. Only 37 percent agreed with the statement, "The government has effective programs to address the fiscal and debt crisis."

Emmanuel de Dios, Pulse Asia research fellow, said, "These results suggested that if the government indeed has a plan of action for dealing with the crisis, then either this plan is still not generally known, or people doubt its effectiveness or the government's will to implement it."

These findings echo an observation by De Dios, during a Philippine Update workshop last October. In his paper, De Dios said the President "has thus far failed to exert the kind of leadership required to steer the economy out of danger and demand sacrifice and solidarity from both the population and the political class."

Most crucially, his paper said, "The administration has not elucidated a coherent roadmap out of the fiscal crisis, with discordant voices, mixed signals, and confused proposals emanating from the President, her Cabinet, and the administration's supporters in the legislature."

"Having half-heartedly pointed to the problem," the paper said, "the administration now appears to be more concerned with putting some distance between itself and difficult (especially new tax) measures than with ensuring that the proper action is indeed taken."

The failure to take determined action to push unpopular fiscal reforms, including cutting the pork barrel, is undermining efforts of the administration to avert the downgrading of the country's credit rating. The paper issued last August by 11 UP School of Economics professors warned that the country faced financial collapse if it did not take drastic measures to curb the deficit. The paper delivered a shock, prompting the President to acknowledge that the deficit was the most urgent problem facing the country. Since then, there has been backsliding in the determination to undertake reforms in the form of cost-cutting and new taxes. The UP paper emphasized that new taxes and cost-cutting, including drastic slashes of the pork barrel were both necessary. Now the pork has been saved.

Morocco's 'revolution'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

RABAT—Receiving the "Global Leaders Award" in the 2004 Global Media Awards, held in this capital city of Morocco last Sunday, was Nouzha Skalli, a member of the Moroccan Parliament. A member of the House of Representatives since 2002, but a politician and public servant for over 30 years, starting with her initial exposure in campus politics, Skalli, according to the Wall Street Journal, has become "a major force behind major changes in the Moroccan Parliament, working all her life (on advocacy for) gender equality and human rights."

She is credited with leading the struggle for the successful passage of the New Family Code which, as she put it in her response, "grants women equality and co-responsibility and considers women at long last full-fledged citizens, a truly revolutionary move." The focus on the links between democracy, human rights and gender equality, said Skalli, "are so vital, like air and water" for achieving sustainable development and equality for all people.

Skalli dedicated her award to "my country and my King," who she said "supports the rights of Moroccan women." A symbolic but nonetheless significant step forward for gender equality, she added, has been the public role given to the King's wife, Princess Selma, who has become a role model for young Moroccan women, an unprecedented development for the monarchy.

* * *

BUT revolutionary change doesn't only take place in parliaments or the royal family. For change to take root, it must be embraced by individuals and families, and if Skalli's family life is anything to go by, then it seems there is no turning back for Morocco's march toward modernization.

Mohammed Bennis, Skalli's husband of 26 years, has been solidly behind his wife's political career even if, he admits, "it's embarrassing at times, especially when people address me as Mr. Skalli." A professional simultaneous interpreter and language teacher, Bennis says that when he first told his parents about his marriage plans and they wanted to meet his fiancée, he told them, "You can see what she looks like in the posters on the streets since she's running for office." They have two children, both of whom are young adults and studying abroad.

Apart from Skalli, the other Moroccan awardees recognized at the Awards Dinner graced by the Moroccan ministers of health, information and social services and some parliamentarians, were, as I mentioned in an earlier column, the Ennakhil Association for the "Gender Equity Award," and the Moroccan Family Planning Association which received the "Country Award."

* * *

THE OTHER winners of this year's Global Media Awards are no less accomplished. Awarded for "Best Individual Reporting Effort" was Zubeida Mustafa, assistant editor of Dawn, a daily newspaper in English published in Pakistan. An editorial writer on social issues and international affairs, Zubeida was recognized for her articles highlighting initiatives contained in the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development which marks its 10th anniversary this year.

Recognized as "Most Conscientious News Service" was Inter Press Service (IPS), represented by Ramesh Jaura, Euro-Mediterranean coordinator for the agency. Asked by a Moroccan journalist what award "gives him the most pleasure," Werner Fornos, president of Population Institute, singled out IPS, which has made reporting on issues confronting the developing world a priority. "Their work shows us that social development is a great investment," said Fornos, "cheaper than investing in war."

Radio Tanzania was awarded "Best Radio Programming," particularly for two of its programs: "Twende Na Wakati" (Let's Move with the Times), a very popular radio soap opera; and "Mambo Bomba" (Cool Things), a show for young people. Both shows focus on family life, while addressing population issues, including sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Martha Swai, the program coordinator and my roommate on this trip through Morocco, won the award previously in 2000, receiving her plaque from former President Joseph Estrada the day before he was forced to vacate Malacañang.

The Worldwatch Institute's World Watch Magazine, a bi-monthly journal concerned with environmental issues, was awarded "Best Population Journal" for its special issue on reproductive health and population concerns, "Population: Beyond the Numbers." Danielle Nierenberg, who authored many of the articles in that publication, represented the magazine.

* * *

CITED for "Best Population/Environmental Reporting Effort" was Centro Centroamericano de Poblacion in Costa Rica, for its publication "Poblacion y Salud en Mesoamerica," which examines potential relations between fertility and the access to and use of natural resources in Peten, Guatemala.

Winning the award for best team reporting effort was "Salud Publica de Mexico," a bimonthly journal published by the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico.

The "Best Combined Media Effort" award went to the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs, cited for "Know Yourself," an integrated communication campaign aimed at Bangladeshi youth.

This columnist was cited for "(writing) tirelessly of the Philippine society's unmet need for access to reproductive health services and information...and consistently (standing up) to reproductive health advocacy detractors...(being) at the frontlines of the continuous struggle to inform and educate people."

Much of the credit for this honor goes to my family—in the broadest sense of the word, to include my loved ones, my colleagues in the INQUIRER, my sisters in the women's movement, my friends in sexual and reproductive health and rights advocacy, and all of you, faithful readers.

A sense of life in the past

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN tourists (both foreign and Filipino) walk near San Agustin Church and the Casa Manila complex, they will notice that this is one small spot of Intramuros that has cobblestone streets. The sound of *calesa* bells or the wooden wheels on the stone conjures many romantic notions about life in the Walled City. Often I hear people exclaim that it would have been wonderful to live in Spanish Manila, and I often feel like bursting the bubble and saying that then, as now, if one was not wealthy, life could be uncomfortable.

Travel accounts of the islands give us a real sense of life in the past. If you take one of those exorbitantly priced *calesa* rides around Intramuros today, you get a quaint ride because most streets are paved and the wooden wheels are lined with rubber creating less noise and a smooth ride. When Ethel Colquhoun and her husband Andrew arrived in Manila at the turn of the last century, they did not have confirmed hotel bookings. They must have presumed that nobody would bother to visit Manila and so they could find a decent room in the best place in town, Hotel de Oriente, outside Intramuros whose imposing façade is often the subject of old photographs.

The hotel was full but for one room, and so the opportunistic clerk charged them $7 per person for this small single room with a single bed. There were four people in the party who looked and "felt dusty, hot and badly dressed." They were told to take the room at that price or leave it.

Of course they left, with Ethel saying she would rather sleep in the street than be had. Now they had to find another hotel and couldn't do that on foot. Since they didn't know anyone of consequence in Manila, they had no ride and had to get the ancestor of today's FX taxi:

"After some delay we got a little box on wheels and rattled away in search of other quarters. Carriages, be it here noted, are hard to hire in Manila, most people keeping their own. Everyone drives, so the demand is frequently larger than the supply." (It must have been a good day because there is no mention of traffic that then, as now, plagued Manila. Haven't you noticed the irony of the word "rush hour"? One cannot rush at this time because of traffic. Another example would be "salvage," which the dictionary defines as saving something but in the Philippines means disposing of someone bodily. That's material for another column, so to get back to Colquhoun's taxi ride:)

"The carromatta is a two-wheeled cart, with a cover; there is room for two Filipinos inside, or for one European and a half. The driver sits on a little perch just in front, and the only way in is to climb over the wheel. The carromatta we hired on this occasion was not very sure of its wheels, and as we joggled and jolted along over the bad roads and cobblestone-paved streets, the driver eyed them nervously. Every now and then came a sickening heave and wrench as we bumped into a hole, and our heads were banged first against the sides of the cover and then against each other. Luckily the wheels held until we had passed along some Spanish-looking streets—white and grey houses with the inevitable rajas—through a low arched opening in the thick wall, which looks much older than it is, and into the walled city. I was too much engaged with holding my head on and watching the wheels to notice much of the city..."

Climbing into this vehicle one had to grasp on the wheels for support, and knowing how dirty the streets were at the time, this could be quite disagreeable. We have air pollution today, but in those days when the term "horsepower" was taken literally, you can imagine that there was a bit more than air pollution in Manila. One had to mind where one was walking not only because of potholes but horse droppings. Seating capacity as mentioned above was for two Filipinos, the equivalent of one and a half European passenger. One wonders if an oversized lone Westerner was charged twice, because even on a jeepney today the driver always tries to pack the seats. He looks back through his mirror and barks "*animan 'yan,*" meaning six people per row. Often this is a signal for everyone to compress, or for mothers to put a child (who rides free) on her lap and accommodate the sixth passenger. However, I was once seated with a fat lady the size of two passengers and the driver kept telling us to squeeze together because "*animan 'yan*" instead of shaming the obese and charging her twice.

All postwar travel accounts of the Philippines marvel about the jeepney—its wild colors and the number of mirrors and horses on the hood—but do not pick up what to us is ordinary: Passing your fare up front. Witty signs like "God knows Hudas not pay." Or even the various ways to stop the jeep if it is not fitted with a wire or button that rings a bell or flashes a red light by the driver. Normally, the Pinoy often refrains from ordering the driver "*Para*" so the more polite "*Sa tabi lang, po*" is used. Non-verbal signals often differ according to sex: Men will knock on the ceiling, while women will demurely hiss "Psssst!"

We see this but rarely notice the everyday details.

Friends say I should have been an anthropologist rather than a historian because I mine travel accounts for everyday detail, providing more body to a history that will otherwise be dull and dry.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

K

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT'S been 56 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations; yet the term "human rights" continues to be the subject of many debates.

The most heated arguments revolve around claims that "human rights" is "Western" and "individualistic" and that in many cultures, these "Western" ideas often run counter to the interests of the community or even of an entire nation. In our part of the world these debates use terms like "Asian values" and "communalism," pitted against Western "human rights" and democracy.

We hear variations in the Philippines with references to our "demo-crazy" and having "too much human rights" as the cause of our underdevelopment. What we need, we're told, are leaders willing to dispense with human rights and get the country going.

Rights, rights

After years of following these debates, I've come to feel that the debates will be futile if we continue to argue over abstractions. What we need to do is find out what popular perceptions are about rights, and how these perceptions affect our decisions in private and public life, from the household to national governance.

In relation to human rights, we can look at the terms people use locally: the English "human rights" for example, as well as the Tagalog "*karapatan.*" But we don't stop with identifying the words. Even more importantly, we look at how these words are used.

"Human rights," for example, is still often invoked derisively, best exemplified by the way people spit out the words with sarcasm. I hear this quite often with our AM radio commentators, when they try to explain problems in terms of "too much human rights." To give one common example, we often hear sarcastic references to "rights" in the mass media, with claim that government tolerates the informal settlers (the politically correct term) in deference to human rights. "*Pa* rights rights *pa kasi,*" people will mumble, the repetition of the term being a way, in local languages, of expressing disapproval.

What should be

Note that while the English "rights" will often be used negatively, the Tagalog "*karapatan*" is almost always used positively, standing solidly as something that is desirable. The term's root word is "*dapat*", or what should be, which is in many ways like the English "right" with its ethical connotations: "right" in the sense of "not wrong" is determined by a society's notions of what should be.

The problems come in the way we determine "what should be." Ideally, we should have certain guiding ethical principles in deciding "what should be." Certain ethical principles can be invoked here, dealing with issues of justice (Is it fair?), autonomy (Does it respect the individual?), maleficence (Does it avoid harm?) and beneficence (Does it do good?).

Unfortunately, out in the real world, we tend to be more rigid, defining "what should be" in terms of received traditions, some of which were not necessarily wise or just. In recent years, the term "reproductive rights" has been used to describe, among others, the right to decide how many children one should have, when to have them and in what intervals. That right would seem commonsensical, yet "reproductive rights" have been attacked by religious conservatives. A mural on Shaw Boulevard captures this view showing Jesus with a child and the caption: "This is a child; not a choice." Religions can be regressive in the way they promote this absolute view, often claiming that "what should be" is what has always been.

In other cases, we believe we have the right to do something because everyone's doing it. We complain, for example, about buses and jeeps blocking vehicular flow when they stop at road intersections to pick up passengers; yet, when we're the ones commuting, we stop these public utility vehicles at those crossings to get on. Here, irrational and mutually destructive behavior is transformed into the norm, shaping our ideas of what's "right" and "rights."

Entitlement

We get even more insights into local views of rights by looking at the wonderfully succinct word: K. I don't mean the "k" in texting (which means OK) but the k as in "*May k ka ba?*" (Do you have k?). The word "*karapatan*" is drastically abbreviated to one letter, yet this "k" is packed with meanings.

Think of how "k" is used in different situations. I'll just give one example: In sing-along joints, you often hear very bad karaoke singers croaking away with people around him whispering in exasperation that he has no "k" to sing.

"K" tells us that our notions of rights are tied to entitlement. Your bad karaoke singer thinks he sounds like Frank Sinatra and therefore that entitles him to hog the microphone and to do "My Way" over and over again until someone guns him down.

Mind you, these fatal shoot-outs do happen, which leads me to another example of "k": the gunman is probably someone who drives an SUV with a "ProGUN" sticker. He believes it's his right to carry a gun everywhere he goes and, worse, that the gun gives him the "k" to rid society of scum (defined, with time, to refer to anyone who disagrees with him, or who won't yield the karaoke microphone).

I'm not being facetious here. So many of our problems do in fact emerge from these notions of entitlement, notions which are tied to status, whether ascribed as in class, or acquired through a diploma (real or fake), or having a gun.

The privileges are often tied to power with some rather paradoxical variations. The poor, for example, may seem disenfranchised but can, in many instances, play around with entitlements tied, precisely, to poverty. I'm poor, therefore I'm entitled to free services. I'm poor, and there's this empty lot, therefore I'm entitled to use it.

Dissecting concepts of rights and entitlements might help us to deal with all kinds of problems. Just look at corruption for example, with the rationalization: "I have to feed my family so. . ." Unless people understand that this corrupted entitlement means depriving many other families of what's due them, we will end up with perverted notions of "right" and "rights."

There's much more to *karapatan* and human rights, but I thought I'd just offer a few insights for today to stimulate more in-depth discussion of rights in Philippine settings so that we can move forward, away from self-centered privileged entitlement toward the original ethical connotations of "*dapat,*" of what should be, for my own and for others' good.

A voice for VOICE

Noel Cabangon sings tomorrow night, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Cinema 4, SM Megamall. Proceeds go to the UP-based Volunteer Organizations Information Coordination and Exchange (VOICE), a national network of volunteer organizations. Tickets available at TicketNet outlets, or call 928-8969 or 0918-9375075. The fund-raiser will also feature Hannah of Session Road.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Perils of marijuana

THIS is in reaction to the proposal to legalize marijuana in the Philippines.

I am a Filipino now living in the Netherlands, a country where marijuana has been sold legally in coffee shops since the 1960s.

If the legalization of marijuana has done the country good, I do not know how. Maybe in terms of tourism money, yes. Tourists cross the border just to get it. But I have seen how it has destroyed many lives and I can say drugs kill (softly).

The long-term use of drugs leads to behavioral problems and a form of psychosis (according to British research), leaving the victims in the calvary of the "walking dead." And the Netherlands, with its organized welfare system, leaves addicts always with money to spend on drugs which are expensive.

Still, there are illegal "plantations" (grown inside caravans or warehouses). Of course, where there is a demand there will always be people who will provide the supply in order to make money.

If there are violations in the Netherlands where the people are supposed to have more sense of maturity and independence, how much more in the Philippines?

—TESS CRUZ, mess222@hotmail.com

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Real issue in Hacienda Luisita

THE COJUANGCO family, the police and the military are trying to skirt the real issue in Hacienda Luisita by making it appear that there were agents-provocateurs in the ranks of the farmworkers—the reason why the strike turned violent.

The fact is that the ownership and control of more than 6,000 hectares of land remain with the Cojuangco family. The stock distribution option (SDO) implemented in 1990 has not resulted in a better life for the majority of the Hacienda Luisita workers. Thousands of workers are given work for only a day or two in a week, forcing them to get loans or cash advances from the management. Thus, their individual shares of the profit, which are computed based on the number of hours they work, are much, much smaller compared to the shares of regular, office-based employees.

The conversion of more than 1,500 hectares into industrial, commercial or residential use has further reduced the work opportunities at Hacienda Luisita.

It is high time for the Arroyo administration to strictly implement the land acquisition and distribution scheme of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, and to veer away from non-land distribution schemes such as the SDO and corporative models.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO, policy advocacy officer, FIAN Philippines, 2149-B Fidel A. Reyes St., Malate, Manila

On logging

THE REAL problem is a system that allows the violation of our forests to go unpunished for years and years. This problem should be addressed jointly and with real concern by the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government.—**Rodolfo Kintanar, 67 A5 Matahimik St., Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City, via e-mail**

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

* * *

It is sad and ironic that we have to wait for tragedies to happen before we put up measures to prevent them.

Illegal logging has been a problem in our country for decades, but we have yet to see anyone punished or a solution being implemented to solve it.

Whether we should impose a total or selective log ban was already a subject of debate some years ago, but nothing happened. It is up to the media to "sensationalize" this issue and thus keep it in the public mind. If they have to do this for years, let that be so. We all know the power of the media in moving government into action.

The closer we look at our leaders, the more we see that our government itself is a tragedy. They are always bickering and playing politics instead of dealing with the real problems of the country.

It is my sense that responsible media people should help in saving our country by promoting social awareness, especially of environmental issues.—**Jojo Santos, 20 Malaya St., Taytay, Rizal, via e-mail**

* * *

Instead of putting the blame completely on the New People's Army, President Macapagal-Arroyo should look into the participation of local government officials in illegal logging. The negligence of the officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources also contributed to the disaster. They must be held accountable for it.—**Romeo Alcantara, Baliuag, Bulacan, via e-mail**

* * *

The death and destruction caused by the storm "Winnie" in Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya and Bicol bear eerie similarities to the flash flood that swept Ormoc City in Leyte some few years ago. I remember that back then the cause was also logging.

Anyone who takes the short Philippine Airlines flight from Manila to Baguio would not be surprised that the horrible, recent tragedy happened. I myself have seen the extent of logging in the Sierra Madre mountain range.

How many more Ormocs, Quezons and Auroras will the country experience before our leaders act on this problem with genuine concern and sincerity? We all know there is only one cause for such disasters—the wanton disregard of public interest. When will we, Filipinos, learn?—**Marcos Boado, Singapore, via e-mail**

* * *

I believe that the solution should be a total, countrywide ban on logging. The DENR should have long ago defined which forest areas are to be exempt from logging activities and, in issuing permits to logging operators, should have set boundaries and limitations on the logging activities. Unfortunately with the government's failure to take these measures, lives have been lost.

We should impose a total log ban and start reforestation before the next tragedy comes.—**Jonathan Lacuesta, 01-143, Blk. 317, Bt. Batok St. 32, Singapore 650317, via e-mail**

* * *

Illegal logging is rampant in the provinces where local authorities connive with men in uniform, officials of front-line agencies and the loggers in abusing and destroying our forests. The civilians easily become the victims of their greed in future disasters. Unless this grand conspiracy is put to an end, we can expect worse scenarios in the future.—**Ben Repol, Stavangergasse, 4-12-02, Vienna, Austria, via e-mail**

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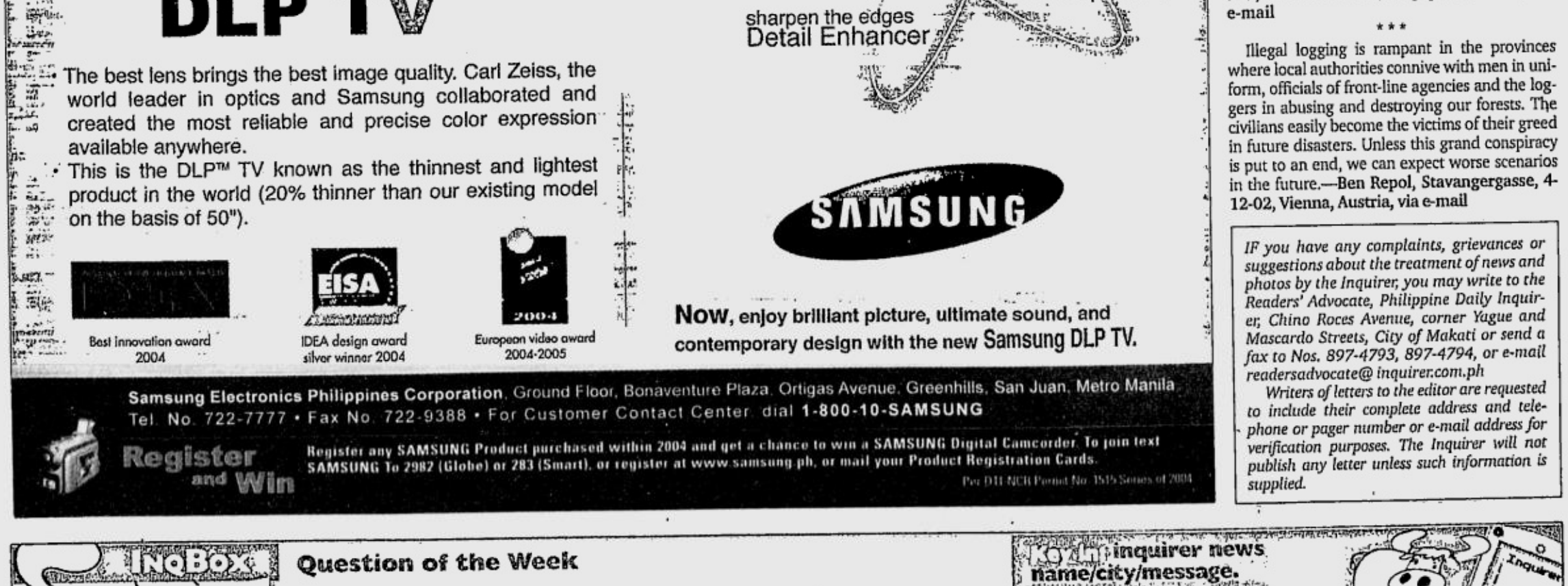

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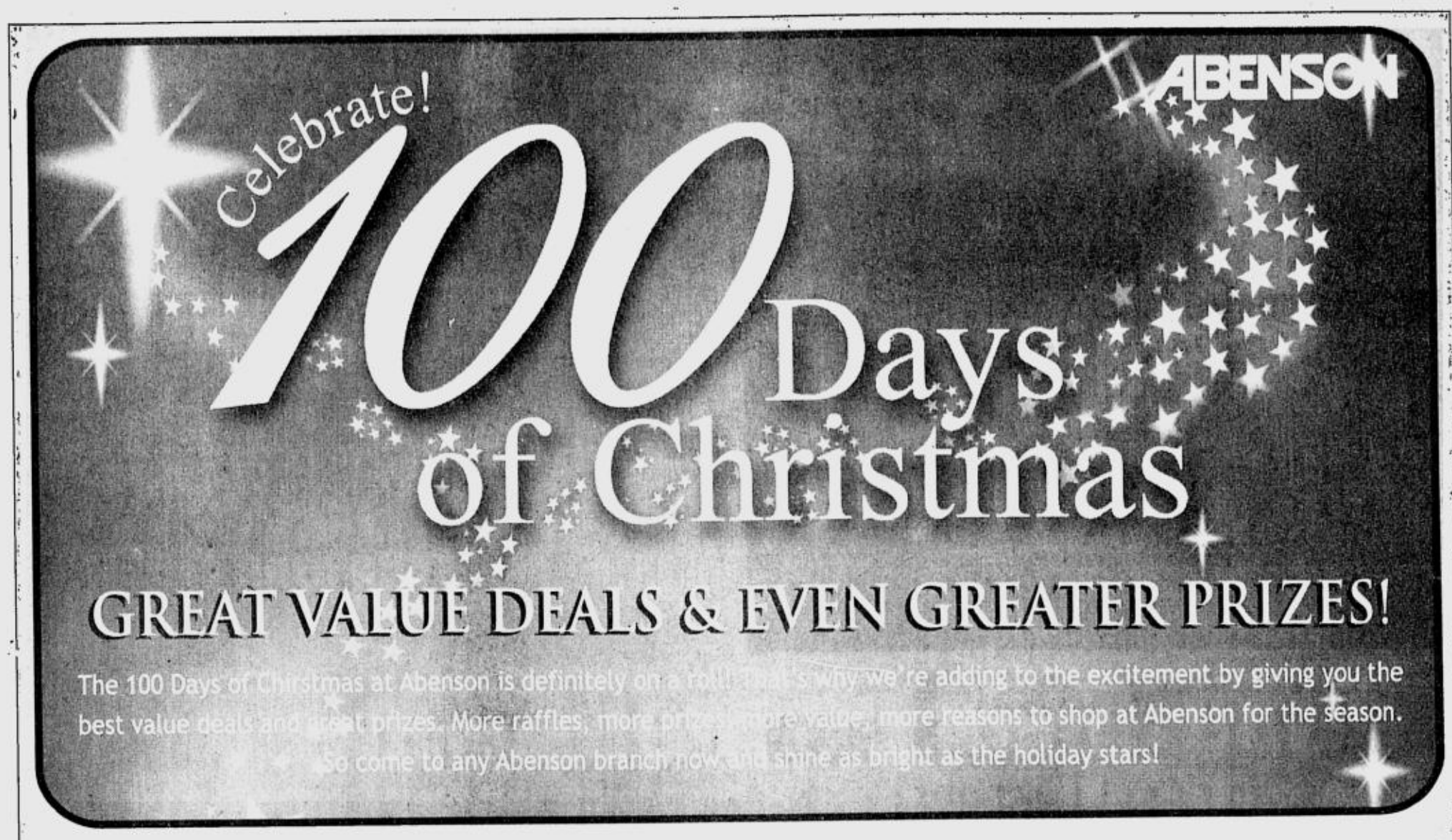

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Camarines town water sources contaminated

PILI, Camarines Sur—Several sources of drinking water here were found positive of the *salmonella typhi* bacteria that causes typhoid fever.

The contaminated water was blamed for a typhoid outbreak in 26 villages since November.

Contaminated water samples were taken from the upland village of Curry and were tested. They were found positive for the typhoid-causing bacteria.

Curry Village is where water from the Himaao River is filtered and pooled before it goes to a chlorination treatment plant.

The DOH has declared a typhoid epidemic in this town after the number of infected individuals climbed to 166 on the third week of November.

It claimed the life of a 45-year-old woman from the village of Tagbong on Nov. 26. The woman developed typhoid complications.

Dr. Alejo Aralar of the provincial health office said even as the number of documented cases went down, the health office sees the possibility of a resurgence of the disease.

Aralar said it was too early to come to the conclusion that the epidemic was over because persons with suspected typhoid fever are still being brought to the health office.

Some of the symptoms of typhoid are fever and abdominal pains that last for five or more days.

Patients' stool or blood is tested to confirm the disease.

He said there are instances when infected persons would show no symptoms because of strong immune systems.

Aralar said he suspects that the contamination, which he said usually comes from fecal wastes, could have been caused by several farming families living within the watershed area.

He said that the watershed areas must be free from any human activity and encroachment to ensure the safety of drinking water that the local water utilities distribute to households.

Paulino Cunanan, manager of the Pili Local Water District (Piwad), confirmed that about six farming families are living within the watershed area in Curry but said they could not eject them.

Cunanan said he is appealing to the local government unit of this town, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agrarian Reform to relocate the farming families out of the watershed area.

But the local government insisted that the Piwad is solely responsible for securing the perimeters of the watershed area and to make sure the water source is free from contamination.

Vice Mayor Ronald Boclot of this town, acting local chief executive during the interview on Tuesday, said that it is the local water utility that must initiate the clearing of the watershed area of human encroachment.

Boclot added that they would make the Piwad liable for the outbreak of typhoid if it was established that water from household faucets caused the typhoid epidemic.

The vice mayor quoted Piwad as saying it doubted whether the typhoid outbreak was caused by water it supplies to households in the town.

Piwad, said the vice mayor, believes the outbreak could have been caused by factors other than contaminated water.

Cunanan said that they did not doubt the result of the DOH test on five water samples but explained that the samples came from the untreated filtered water drawn from the Himaao River.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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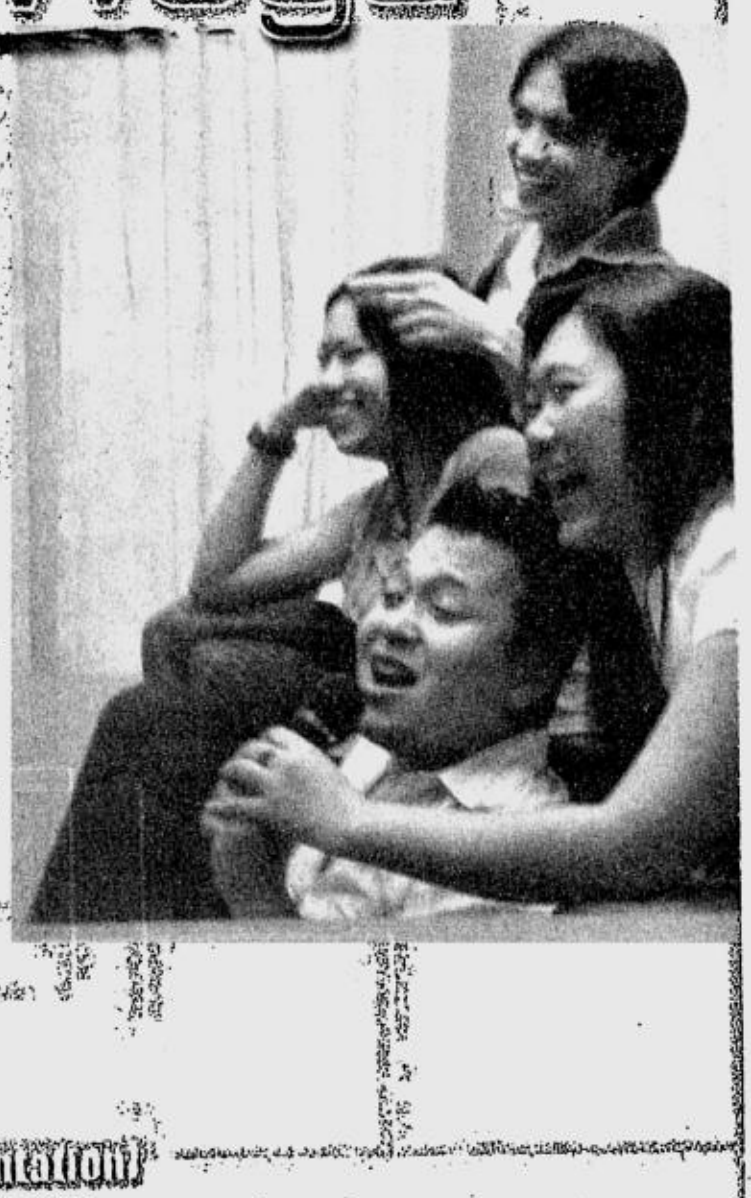

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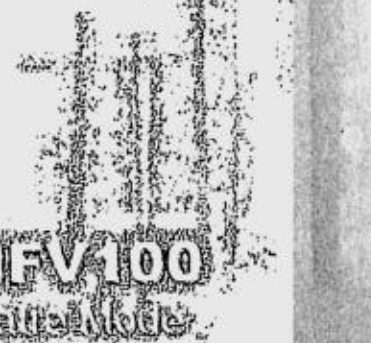

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NPA executes man wanted for rape

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The New People's Army (NPA) announced that it executed the alleged public enemy no. 1 of Sevilla town in Bohol.

In a statement sent by e-mail to the INQUIRER, National Democratic Front (NDF) Central Visayas spokesperson Rio de la Montana said elements of the NPA's Chocolate Hills Command executed Victor Cutin, 24, last Dec. 3.

De la Montana said Cutin was responsible for the abduction and rape of a 16-year-old girl on Aug. 12 and the shooting of Sevilla Councilor Eleazar Digal on Nov. 6.

The NDF spokesperson said Cutin was arrested by NPA fighters on Nov. 15 and was "put on trial" before he was found guilty by a nine-man jury of the "people's court."

Policemen in Sevilla recovered Cutin's body in Barangay Bonbon, Loboc town on Saturday morning.

Cutin allegedly abducted at knife point the teenager in the presence of her friends at about 9 p.m. last Aug. 12 in Barangay Lico-Lico, Sevilla.

He brought the victim to a forested area in Sitio Ka-ojoy, Barangay Villa Aurora in neighboring Bilar town and raped her twice.

The victim was able to escape around noon the next day and was brought by Villa Aurora residents to the Bilar police where Sevilla policemen fetched her.

Last Aug. 18, the victim filed charges of forcible abduction and rape at the office of the provincial prosecutor against Cutin who managed to elude a manhunt conducted by the police and Army soldiers.

De la Montana said that on Oct. 1, the NPA started conducting consultations with its local organizations in several barangays in Sevilla to address the "climate of fear" created in the area by the failure of government troops to arrest Cutin.

He said the rape victim signed a sworn affidavit before a rebel representative on Nov. 8 declaring her intention to pursue the abduction and rape charges against Cutin.

On Nov. 6, Cutin tried to kill Digal in his house but he missed. The assassination failed as his second shot hit the councilor only in the left hand after his first shot misfired.

Cutin vented his ire on a stray carabao, which he stabbed dead as he fled after shooting the councilor.

De la Montana said Cutin himself admitted that Digal, who chairs the Sevilla council peace and order committee, had "persecuted" him for his suspected involvement in robbery.

The rebels have also announced they were forming a court to try criminal charges against environment official being held responsible for the deaths brought by flooding and landslides as a result of Typhoon "Winnie."

Tubal ligation angers archbishop

DAGUPAN CITY—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz has rebuked local officials who, he said, enticed women to "mutilate their bodies" by giving them food if they undergo tubal ligation, a family planning procedure.

Cruz was reacting to reports about two Pangasinan mayors who asked the Voluntary Sterilization Itinerant Team (VSIT) of the provincial government to conduct tubal ligation among women who wanted to undergo the procedure in their towns.

San Manuel Mayor Salvador Perez gave each of the 29 women in his town a half sack of rice and a bag of groceries. He also promised to give them goats as part of his livelihood program for the town's poor.

Asingan Mayor Guillermo Piso asked the VSIT to conduct tubal ligation among women in his town.

But their actions caught the ire of Cruz, a former president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

"For these officials, the poor have still to be exploited, shamed (and) degraded," he said in a statement.

"They entice (the women) to mutilate their bodies. They are told they have no right to multiply. They are enticed with a bag of food if they cut their insides," Cruz said.

He lamented that some people are turning desperate to lessen population. He said these people consider human births "a big curse" and they look at babies "with great disgust."

"Instead of the poor being patiently and effectively taught about responsible parenthood, (these officials take) parenthood away from them. Instead of education, they are led to mutilation—shamefully, cruelly, irreversibly," he said.

"One can simply wonder where these individuals would be if their own mother or fathers cut or tie their tubes that would bring them into the world. If their fathers and mothers were still alive, would they cheer for them? *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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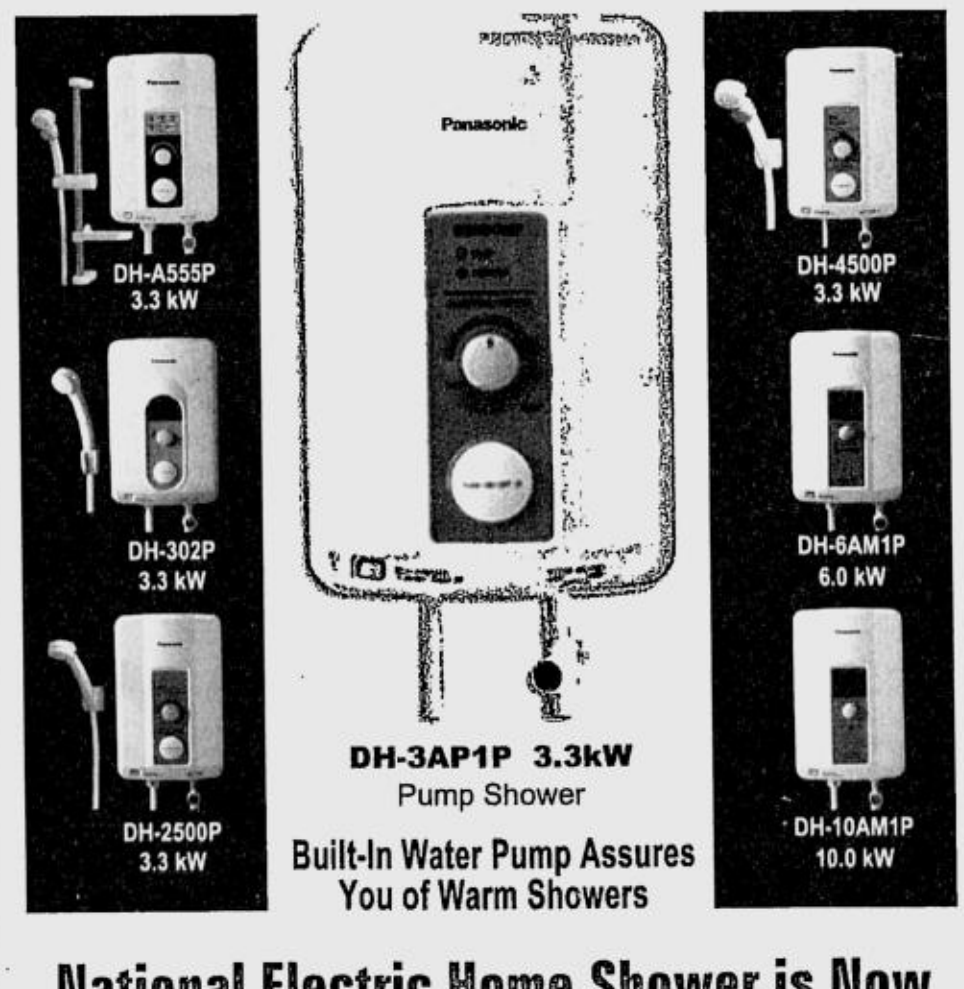

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Miners pull out 4 survivors buried under ruins

From page A1

lashing Quezon and two other provinces.

As of 6 p.m. yesterday, a rescue team composed of commercial miners and soldiers had pulled out 99 bodies, according to Army Col. Jaime Buenaflor, commanding officer of the 202nd Brigade.

He said rescue work at the site actually started on Dec. 1, and military relief operations in the village as early as Nov. 30.

Horacio Ramos, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) director, said rescue operations would continue in Quezon because miners believe there are still others waiting to be rescued under the rubble.

"We are doing it very carefully, yet we know we have to buy time because it has already been days since these people have been trapped," said Ramos, whose agency is coordinating the emergency response operation.

Through the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA), Benguet Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. and Philex Mining Corp. sent 43 of their rescue experts to Quezon.

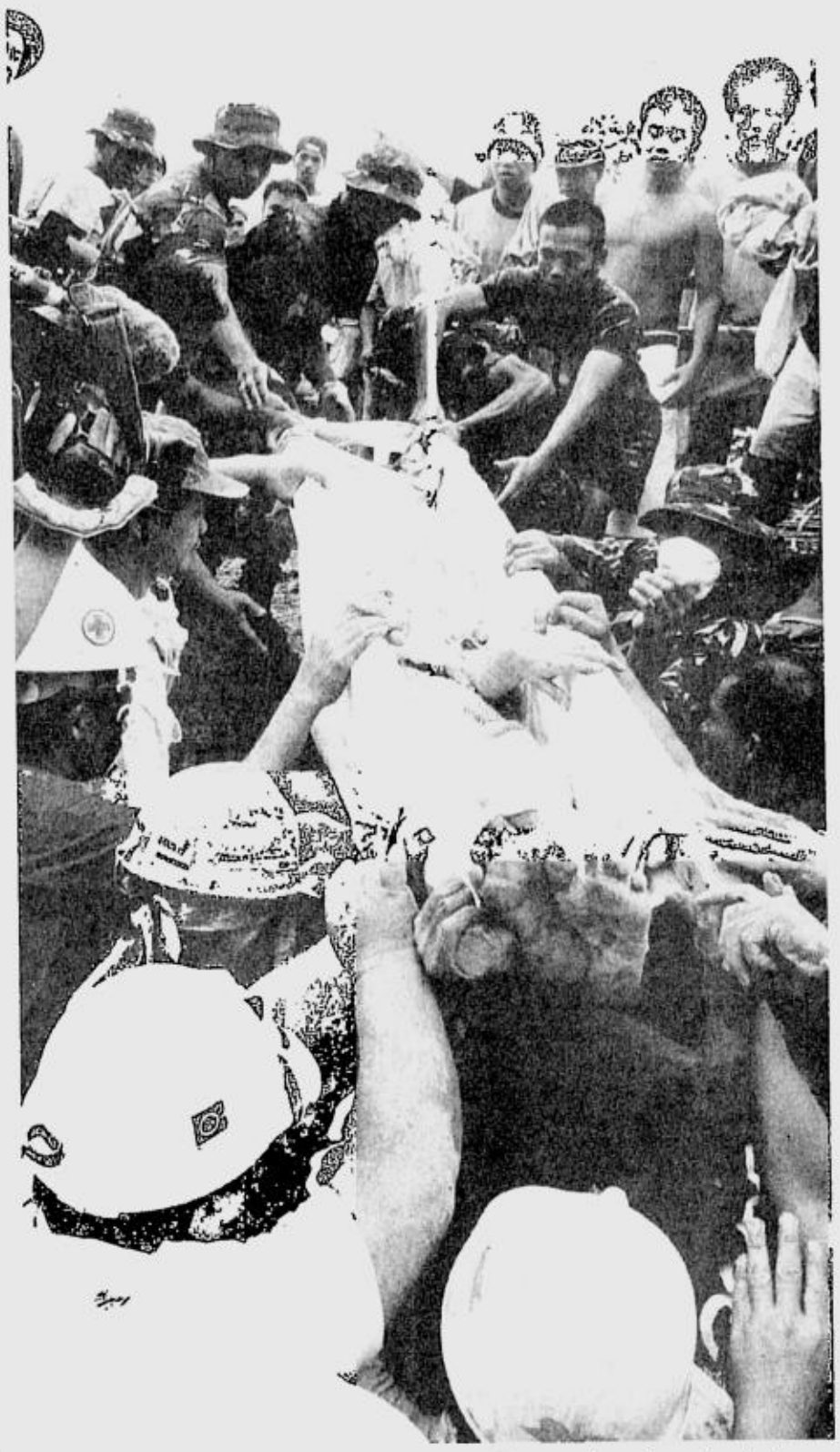
"We have to give it to the miners, to the PMSEA and to the minerals industry for leading this operation," Ramos said.

Ramos, who is also the PMSEA vice president, went to Real on Thursday, together with PMSEA president Ernesto Rodriguez and other officers of the organization.

"PMSEA currently has a team of doctors and medical workers in Sitio Umiray and Maligaya in General Nakar, Quezon, while the rescuing miners have been in Tignoan for three days now," Rodriguez said.

"Cordilleran miners have been credited for countless rescue success stories because of their remarkable history. Indigenous Filipinos here belong to families with vast experiences in mining, and many have been engaged in expert tunneling," said Redempta Baluda, Philex spokesperson and environment manager.

THE RESCUE of Estela Marie, looking none the worst despite the calamity that befell her and three others, has been described by President Arroyo as nothing short of "miraculous." REM ZAMORA



SURVIVOR Maria Tamares, 49, is hauled up by volunteer miners from the darkness of confinement to the light of day. REM ZAMORA

Hill collapsed on building

Ma. Elena Sur, who, along with her husband George, worked as the resort's custodians, said the Repador building served as an evacuation center for some of the villagers at the height of Winnie's fury.

The structure, which sits on the beach front property facing the Pacific Ocean, practically had its second floor pushed forward when a chunk of the hill behind it collapsed during the storm, Sur said.

Capt. Gerry Sultan, civil affairs chief of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said the four survivors were among the more than 100 residents of Purok 3 in Sitio Colangco who had sought refuge in the building when waters from the sea and a creek swamped their area.

He said the space where they were found was part of the basement of the building that used to house a hardware store and a restaurant.

Malou Bautista, leader of an association of fishermen in the area, said the building was owned by Quezon Rep. Raffy Nantes, who bought it last year.

10 others trapped

The survivors were weak, pale and appeared to be in a state of shock. They were administered first aid and given coconut water to sip.

A standby team of 2nd ID doctors led by Capt. Keene Gaditano quickly checked the survivors' vital signs.

Gaditano said while the four bore no abrasions and serious wounds, they were all suffering from dehydration.

Sultan said that from the statements of the survivors, there were 10 others still trapped in the basement.

He expressed the belief that more would be rescued.

Maj. Marvin Dagamon, operations chief of the 202nd Infantry Brigade, aired a similar optimism.

Dagamon said past experience had shown that persons trapped underground could survive for 14 days as long as there was a certain amount of air and fluids available.

'We will still live'

Ma. Elena Sur said her niece Estela Marie and the child's grandmother, Maria Tamares, were trapped on the stairway between the first and second floors of the building.

Colonel Buenaflor said Bungag and Manuguid were able to find a "clearance" between the debris which consisted of soil and smashed concrete.

"They were able to crawl within that space, which is about two-three feet high. They managed to talk to each other," he said.

Sur said that during the ordeal, Estela Marie was often locked in embrace with Tamares, whom she calls "*Nanay* (mother)."

She quoted Tamares as saying that the child once uttered in Filipino, with her arms wrapped around her grandmother's neck: "*Nanay*, we will still live, won't we?"

But Sur was not exactly in a rejoicing mood because she is in danger of becoming a widow.

Among those believed still trapped under the rubble were her husband George and their two daughters—Marjorie Anne, 5, and Mariel, 17 months old.

Sur said she was stranded in nearby Barangay Kiloloron when the landslide struck.

About to pray

According to Sur, what the landslide turned into a tomb was once a house of prayer.

"From what I heard, they were about to pray when it happened," she told the INQUIRER.

The Galilee Resort houses the Door of Faith, a "born again" Christian group in which Sur and her husband are members. Also believed among those still buried is Noel Laurenciana, one of its pastors.

The second floor served as the group's chapel, while the first floor had the kitchen, the rooms used by the pastors and a sing-along bar, she said.

Judging from how the structure now lay in its collapsed state, the second floor was practically pushed forward by the force of the landslide coming from behind the building.

"We're standing now on what used to be the roof deck, and over there was the second floor," she said, pointing to a red-tiled concrete surface a few feet away, where rescuers were concentrating their drilling. *With a report from Rem Zamora*

GMA on Real rescue: It's a miracle, praise God

From page A1

mining companies and the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] reached them and ... were able to rescue some of them. I'd like to thank God for that miracle, and they are continuing to dig deeper to see if they can rescue any more. Praise God for the miracle," she said in a statement.

Later emerging from a closed-door meeting at the National Disaster Coordinating Council at about 1 p.m., an exuberant Ms Arroyo reiterated her thanks for the rescue.

An NDCC report said the four recent storms and typhoons left 939 people dead, 837 missing and 752 injured, and destroyed crops, infrastructure, school buildings, transmission lines and health facilities estimated at P4.6 billion.

The President met with top defense, military and rescue officials for the second straight day to assess the damage and plan strategy to hasten relief and rehabilitation efforts in the affected areas.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said Ms Arroyo had ordered them to "organize management teams" in Infanta, Real and General Nakar in Quezon, and Dingalan in Aurora for easier distribution of relief goods.

Cruz said the local management teams would coordinate with the joint task force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US forces that would be providing relief and humanitarian assistance.

Yesterday, Brig. Gen. Kenneth Glueck, commanding officer of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces, and Navy Capt. Dennis Williams, liaison officer of the US Pacific Command, met with top defense and military officials to finalize the functions of the task force.

"Right now, our charter is to make an impact, to affront, to assist, to get to the reconstruction phase," Glueck told reporters. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

How Baguio quake victim survived 15-day ordeal under rubble

From page A1

Dy, a cook at Hyatt when the 7.9-intensity earthquake struck on July 16, 1990, knows what he is talking about.

Droplets of water

During his own ordeal, Dy said he lay motionless under the rubble, enduring the stench of decomposing bodies of hotel guests and co-employees around him. Among the unfortunate ones were five of his friends who had been pinned to death.

"It was mental and emotional torture to see them dead. I could not remember the names of my fellow workers," he said.

It was raining during the search and rescue operation at the five-star hotel. Drops of water that dripped down the rubble saved Dy. He tore some pieces of foam scattered around, dipped them in the water and sucked on them.

"I was hungry, thirsty and scared. Throughout the ordeal, I relied solely on divine intervention. I did not give up on prayer. I begged God to keep me out from the dark to see my family again," he said. His eldest son, Peter Art, was two years old at the time.

As the days passed and hope was getting dim, he banged his head on a cement post in an effort to end his life. He felt numb and was very weak.

Answered prayers

When he was about to give up, a hand touched his head at around 3 a.m. on July 31, 1990 and slowly pulled him out.

He knew then that his prayers had been answered.

Dy was taken to the Baguio General Hospital but was later transferred to the Makati Medical Center where he was confined for nine days.

Every July 16, Dy would tell his story to his eldest son and show him pictures of the hotel before and after the earthquake.

"How did you survive, Papa?" his son would ask him.

"It was a miracle. God saved me," Dy would tell his son.

Biggest test

The 1990 earthquake was the biggest test of the Cordilleran miners, Baluda recalled.

Benguet Corp. miners were the first to enter the devastated Baguio City, zeroing in on the collapsed Hotel Nevada that used to stand outside the former Camp John Hay main gate.

"Philex was only able to send our team a week after July 16, 1990, because we had to rebuild the road leading to Baguio. Our miners hiked for hours to the Hyatt. It was a fly that led one of our miners to (Dy)," Baluda said.

Since the successful Dy rescue, Benguet miners have been dispatched to countless disaster sites.

"Philex miners were also asked to fly to Taiwan during an earthquake, but the rescue effort was canceled," Baluda said. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Survivors need healing of raw, mental wounds

From page A1

after the storms that swept across the region on Nov. 29 and Dec. 2—at least 240 of them in Real.

Among those missing and feared dead were 17 members of Evuenga's family, including a sister and brother who were hit by logs and swallowed up by the floods as they tried to hold on to their father.

"I can't sleep at night because I remember what happened to them. When I fall asleep I dream of them," Evuenga said in a muddy classroom of the Real Central Elementary School that had been turned into an evacuation center.

Jerome Caluyo, a clinical psychologist sent by the Department of Health to Real to counsel the victims, said government officials were too overloaded extending food aid, medicines, shelter and other necessities to heal mental wounds.

"They are just not prepared," Caluyo said, stressing the need for a quick response to help victims. "They have not set up the mechanism to respond to the trauma.

"For many, the trauma has already sunk in," with many feeling guilt, grief and blaming themselves for the loss of a loved one, he said.

Jun de la Peña, a child specialist also sent by the health department, said he usually used play or art as therapy to help heal children's mental wounds but added that such activities were impossible in Real.

Everyone's busy lining up for relief aid and trying to survive, and children join the line to help the family, he said.

Ricky de la Cruz, 12, nearly drowned. But his brother Salvador, 18, managed to grab him by his shirt and save him from a raging river near their home. His cousins, aged 3 to 12, perished in the floods.

The boy complained of constant nightmares and said he saw himself drowning. To keep himself busy and help his family rebuild their home, he began gathering scrap metal and used bottles and selling them for recycling.

"I don't know when I will forget," De la Cruz said.

Racing against dogs

The storms have gone, but the mental anguish continues in other villages.

In Dingalan, Aurora, residents of Barangay Umiray have appealed to officials coordinating search and retrieval operations to help them recover the bodies of relatives.

"We respect our dead so much that we retrieved even the severed body parts. A dog was already eating an arm when we caught up to it. We're racing against hungry dogs," German Astrera, chair of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Dingalan-Umiray chapter, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Astrera said extreme hunger and exhaustion had forced villagers, most of them Dumagats, to abandon efforts to retrieve bodies and bury them.

Many villagers had left for the Dingalan town center to get relief goods, he said.

Astrera made the appeal after Carmen Huego, a Dumagat, returned from Mauban, which is five hours by boat from Umiray.

According to him, Huego saw the bodies of many villagers washed down by floods and mudslides to Mauban town. "She reported seeing many dead bodies ... but some of the villagers were still alive," Astrera said.

The Umiray River separates Dingalan, Aurora and General Nakar, Quezon. Another large river cuts through Mauban and empties to the Pacific Ocean, he said.

Huego's two children drowned in the rampaging waters, he said.

The disaster coordinating council in Dingalan initially reported 63 dead in Umiray. On Tuesday, Betty Soler, a Dumagat, reported 32 more of her relatives had died. *Reports from AP and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Taguig Muslims give goods, pray for storm victims

By Christian V. Esguerra

A SACKFUL of used clothing and blankets, and a modest collection of P6,000.

This was all that residents of a Muslim community in Taguig could manage to pool together to donate to the victims of the series of typhoons that hit Quezon and neighboring provinces.

But Maharlika residents were happy to give, knowing better than most what the situation must be for the victims, said Prof. Taha Basman, a resident of Maharlika and president of the Philippine Islamic Council.

"Muslims fully empathize with the victims because we ourselves are perennial victims of calamities, both natural and manmade," he said in an interview.

Most of the donors were from the Maguindanao and Cotobato regions that are known strongholds of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, he said.

In 2000, President Joseph Estrada ordered an all-out war on the MILF, driving the population to flee their hometowns. They ended up in Maharlika and make up some 5 percent of the 50,000 population.

Basman said the evacuees became "refugees," the recipients of old clothes, food and anything of value that their neighbors could spare.

Donations donated back

Some of these "relief goods" ended up in the lone sack that was brought to the National Disaster Coordinating Council office in Camp Aguinaldo on Monday.

The collection was taken during a meeting of Maharlika leaders on Sunday, in which many of the Mindanao evacuees showed up and offered to help.

But there was not even enough to fill up the sack, said Basman.

"It's not that they were reluctant to donate. It's just that they didn't have much to give," he said.

Too poor to give

The donors are too poor to even buy clothes for themselves, the Muslim leader said.

But they will more than make up for it through prayers, he said.

Basman said the village's Blue Mosque had been packed with worshippers since Tropical Depression "Winnie" and Typhoon "Yoyong" struck and killed hundreds of people and left thousands of others homeless in eastern Luzon and parts of the Visayas.

Each of the five prayers that the Muslims recite each day now lasts 10 minutes, five minutes more than usual, he said.

The extra five minutes is a "Salat-Usshukr," the Muslim special "prayer to seek help," he explained.

Giving thru prayers

This part is recited during the last "prostration"—the act of kneeling with the forehead touching the floor in obedience and worship, he said.

"What they could not donate materially, they're trying to give through prayers," said Basman.

"They know Allah will listen and help the typhoon victims," he said.

They lived on water in darkness in half a meter space

From page A1

pulled out of the rubble of a two-story building in the typhoon-ravaged village of Tignoan in Real, Quezon.

The three were taken to the Lucena hospital, where a team of doctors immediately attended to them. Ian Bungag, 15, the last to be taken by a military helicopter from the site, joined them an hour later.

Day or night

Having been given permission by her doctors to speak with the INQUIRER, Maria, 49, told a story of faith and hope.

They marked day or night through the sound of the excavation equipment that the rescuers wielded.

"If there was noise, we knew it was daytime. When we heard nothing for a long period of time, we knew that the rescuers were sleeping. So we also slept," Maria said.

"We lost track of the total number of times that we fell sleep because of hunger and fatigue. Our bodies were aching, we were all dizzy. Most of the time, we were all asleep."

Thus did they lose track of the total number of days that they were trapped under the rubble.

"How many days were we there?" Maria asked her daughter Jenelyn, who was standing by her side.

Told that their ordeal had lasted 10 days, she whispered that it was God who saved them.

Only water

"I just left everything to the Lord," she said. "I called on the children to pray with me. Sometimes they led the prayers."

There was no food, so they survived on water that Maria told the children to collect.

"We didn't know what kind of water it was," she said. "There was water on the floor. We also got water from ... I think it was a small plastic pail. I can't describe the taste. But it was water, and we needed it in order to survive."

It broke her heart that every time Estela Marie asked for food, she could do nothing.

"At one point the child was begging for coffee, but what could I do?" she said, weeping at the recollection. "I told her that we did not have food, but we would have it soon. Then I told her to go to sleep."

How did the building collapse?

"All I know is that there were many people inside the building," Maria said. "Because we thought then that it was safe there. But when it collapsed, we didn't know what happened to the others. We just found ourselves in one space lying down."

She said the stench of death was everywhere, and begged the INQUIRER not to ask her for details: "I want to erase that event from my memory."

Barely an hour after Estela Marie was wheeled inside the emergency room by Army soldiers from the Camp Nakar medical team and an IV drip was fixed to her tiny arm, she was seen whispering to her tearful father, Melvin.

Slice of cake

"She's asking for a slice of cake," Melvin told the INQUIRER, adding: "All along, I thought that I would never see her alive. God is really kind to my little angel."

Red Cross needs help

From page A1

National Red Cross (PNRC) has complained that donations were coming in in trickles.

The PNRC is appealing to good Samaritans, particularly wealthy Filipino businessmen, to lend some more help.

PNRC chair Sen. Richard Gordon received yesterday 40,000 euros from French Ambassador Renée Veyret to help the Red Cross sustain its relief operations in the worst-hit towns of Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija.

But Gordon said the relief organization needed more than P100 million to provide food, medicines, blankets, power generators and clothes for the typhoon victims.

Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced by the floods and landslides. Many villages around the towns of Infanta, Real and Nakar in Quezon were submerged in floodwaters and landslides in the aftermath of the storms.

The Red Cross intends to stay in the affected areas until rehabilitation was underway, he said.

Top four local donors

So far, the Red Cross has solicited P44 million, with only P7.2 million coming from local donors.

The top four donors were Smart (P1 million), Phillip Morris (P2 million), Caltex Philippines, Inc. (P1 million) and Mirant Philippines Foundation Inc. (P1.5 million).

The rest came from international groups such as the Australian Embassy (P8.7 million), International Federation of Red Cross (P6.6 million), USAID (P5.5 million), Agencia Espanola Cooperacion Internacional with the Spanish government (P4.4 million) and USA Embassy Club (P75,000).

The Red Cross is still awaiting pledges from international donors amounting to P12.35 million (Spanish Red Cross, 12,000 euros; Malaysian Red Cross, $10,000, and Spanish Red Cross-Madrid, 160,000 euros).

Nick Bridger of the European Commission Humanitarian Office has pledged between 800,000 and one million euros to finance relief efforts.

The money, which will be available this week, "represents the solidarity of the EU member states and community for the sufferings of people at the brunt of natural disasters," said Bridger.

He said a major portion would go to the Red Cross through the Spanish Red Cross and other nongovernment agencies.

Top foreign donors

Foreign countries, agencies and nongovernment organizations have granted a total of $3.1 million in emergency aid for the Filipinos who had been displaced by the series of storms the past three weeks, according to officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Topping the list were the European Commission ($1,326,260), Australia ($392,772), New Zealand ($275,862), Japan ($269,489), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies ($130,000), the officials said.

The list also includes Belgium ($40,134), Canada ($1,095), Canadian International Development Agency ($82,747), Germany ($66,312), Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs ($50,000), Singapore ($50,000), Switzerland ($87,719), UN Children's Fund ($95,000), UN Development Program ($100,000) and World Health Organization ($20,000).

The funds were coursed through international organizations.

Saudi prince

The DFA said it also received funds from Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia ($100,000), Cyprus ($30,000) and Korea ($50,000). All the donations amounted to $3,167,570.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo expressed "deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude" to the countries and agencies that extended "much-needed humanitarian assistance" to those who lost their homes and property.

"They have proven to the Filipino people their humanitarian concern, especially in our hour of need for the victims of the series of natural calamities," he said, referring to Typhoons "Unding," "Violeta," Tropical Depression "Winnie" and Typhoon "Yoyong" that battered the country one after the other.

Responding to appeals for help, foreign countries and agencies immediately sent monetary assistance, emergency aid materials and teams to help the government in its search and rescue operations.

"The human compassion expressed by these governments, international organizations and NGOs through their donations in cash or in kind, so that relief and rescue operations would be facilitated, highlights the common concerns shared by humanity for the victims of natural disasters," Romulo said.

"It is true that in times of peril and crisis that the best instincts of human nature rise to the core," he added.

Foreign countries rushed to help the country following an earthquake in 1990, the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in Central Luzon in 1991 and the "mega-typhoon" that struck the country in 1995, officials said.

US ship, helicopters

On Sunday, Bridger was with Gordon when the latter led a small contingent of international humanitarian donors in a six-hour swing through three towns of Quezon, Baler in Aurora and Palayan City in Nueva Ecija to assess the situation on the ground.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, who joined the group, said he was "struck by the degree of isolation still several days after the storms had passed."

Ricciardone said that the US government was sending a ship with a couple of helicopters to provide US engineers who would help restore roads, bridges and telecommunication facilities.

Appalled

Even Gordon was appalled by the suffering, which was aggravated by the inadequate relief goods that had so far reached the worst-hit towns in Quezon—Real, Nakar and Infanta.

The senator immediately telephoned the PNRC national office to send within the day food, blankets, medicines, body bags and 20 power generators to these towns.

Estrada, Singson camps accuse each other of murder

MALACAÑANG yesterday appealed to both camps in the Estrada plunder case not to speculate on the killing of a vital witness against the former President.

"The motive is yet to be established so we appeal to the public to refrain from speculations and await the official report of the investigation," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye said Malacañang expected the Philippine National Police to quickly resolve the killing of Marilyn Perez, longtime secretary of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. The governor's exposé led to the impeachment and ouster of President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Perez, who was shot Tuesday in Ermita, Manila, was a key state witness but the defense also claimed that she was set to testify for Estrada.

Bunye's appeal came as the prosecution and defense panels, the Estrada and Singson camps stepped up their attacks on each other.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio has asked protagonists in the trial of Estrada to let the lawyers "do the battle" in the Sandiganbayan, the anti-graft court, and not to let the violence spill into the streets.

But Estrada, speaking through his spokesperson, said that only Singson had the "motive" and "homicidal impulse" to order the killing of Perez. Singson denied the allegation.

"The situation is getting to be messy. I hope it will not get out of control," said Villa-Ignacio, who "manifested" in court on Wednesday that the prosecution was preparing Perez to be a "rebuttal witness."

He earlier said it was not far-fetched that the killing could be related to the ongoing hearing on the plunder and perjury charges against Estrada and his son Jinggoy Estrada, former San Juan mayor and now a senator.

Falling out with Singson

But Estrada spokesperson Didagen Dilangalen blamed Singson for the killing.

"What's the motive of President Estrada? He is winning the lawsuit. He has no motive, no criminal tendencies, no homicidal impulse like Chavit Singson," Dilangalen told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said Estrada was known to be a nonviolent man, unlike Singson who had confessed to the killing several people.

Earlier, Dilangalen said Perez had been sending the defense panel "feelers" to testify in Estrada's favor. "This matter is no longer a secret. It's been talked about," he said of the supposed falling out between Perez and the Singson family.

Sought for comment, Singson said he would never hurt Perez, whom he considered part of his family. "I love her so much to do this to her. She was very loyal ever since," he said. "Will I kill my own relative?"

He said Perez was killed because she knew too much about the alleged jueteng money collected by then President Estrada through then San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

"She knew Jinggoy's driver. She knew how they went to the LCS building to deliver jueteng money. She knew so much about their involvement in jueteng operations," he said. The LCS is a building owned by Singson in San Andres, Manila.

He noted that it was Perez who had seen a personal check with the picture of Jinggoy on it and which the mayor had used to pay Singson as part of the jueteng collection.

Estrada's 'goon mentality'

As for his alleged criminal tendencies, Singson said Estrada was more prone to violence.

"The killing shows Estrada to be living his Asyong Salonga role in real life," he said of the Estrada movie about a local goon. "He has a goon mentality."

Told about Singson's charges, Jinggoy denied that Perez knew his drivers. "Singson is a liar. My drivers never went to his office because we are not even close in the first place. So, there was no reason for me to be sending my drivers to him," he said.

Like Dilangalen, the senator said Singson had a motive for killing his secretary.

At a news conference, Jinggoy denied Singson's accusations that the Estrada family was involved in the killing of Perez.

The senator said the Estradas had no track record of killing people, unlike Singson. He noted that Singson was the suspect in the murder of people like the father of Rep. Bingbong Crisologo and Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan.

"Definitely, we don't have a criminal mind," he said. "He's (Singson) the only one with a motive," the senator later told reporters.

Jinggoy and his mother, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, said in separate interviews that Perez had sent feelers to their lawyers that she would testify against Singson.

The young Estrada said that there were "some disgruntled employees of Singson who approached our camp and want to testify."

Stop insinuations

Jinggoy asked Singson to stop insinuating that the Estradas had something to do with Perez's murder. He and his mother also asked Villa-Ignacio to stop making the same insinuation.

Told that Singson had said that Perez could have been mistaken for Lim, who testified in Estrada's impeachment trial in 2000, the young Estrada said: "First of all, Emma Lim had already testified. *Ano pa ang habol namin sa kanya* (What else is our issue against her)? If we are after her, *eh di dapat* before she testified *may nangyari na* (something should have happened before she had testified)." ***With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Armand N. Nocum and Christine O. Avendaño***

Police looking for leads in victim's phone

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE POLICE in Manila will be studying the messages and logged calls in the cellphone of Marilyn Perez, long-time secretary of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, to gain information that could reveal the reason behind her killing.

The Western Police District on Wednesday night recovered Perez's cell phone with its SIM card intact after it questioned the three men who had brought her to the Philippine General Hospital. The cell phone went missing after she was shot on Tuesday.

WPD homicide chief Sr. Insp. Dominador Arevalo said investigators would begin studying the cell phone yesterday.

But so far, he added, the police had not found any evidence that would link Perez's shooting to the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada.

Arevalo said investigators decided to track down the men who had brought Perez to the hospital after they suspected them of taking her cell phone.

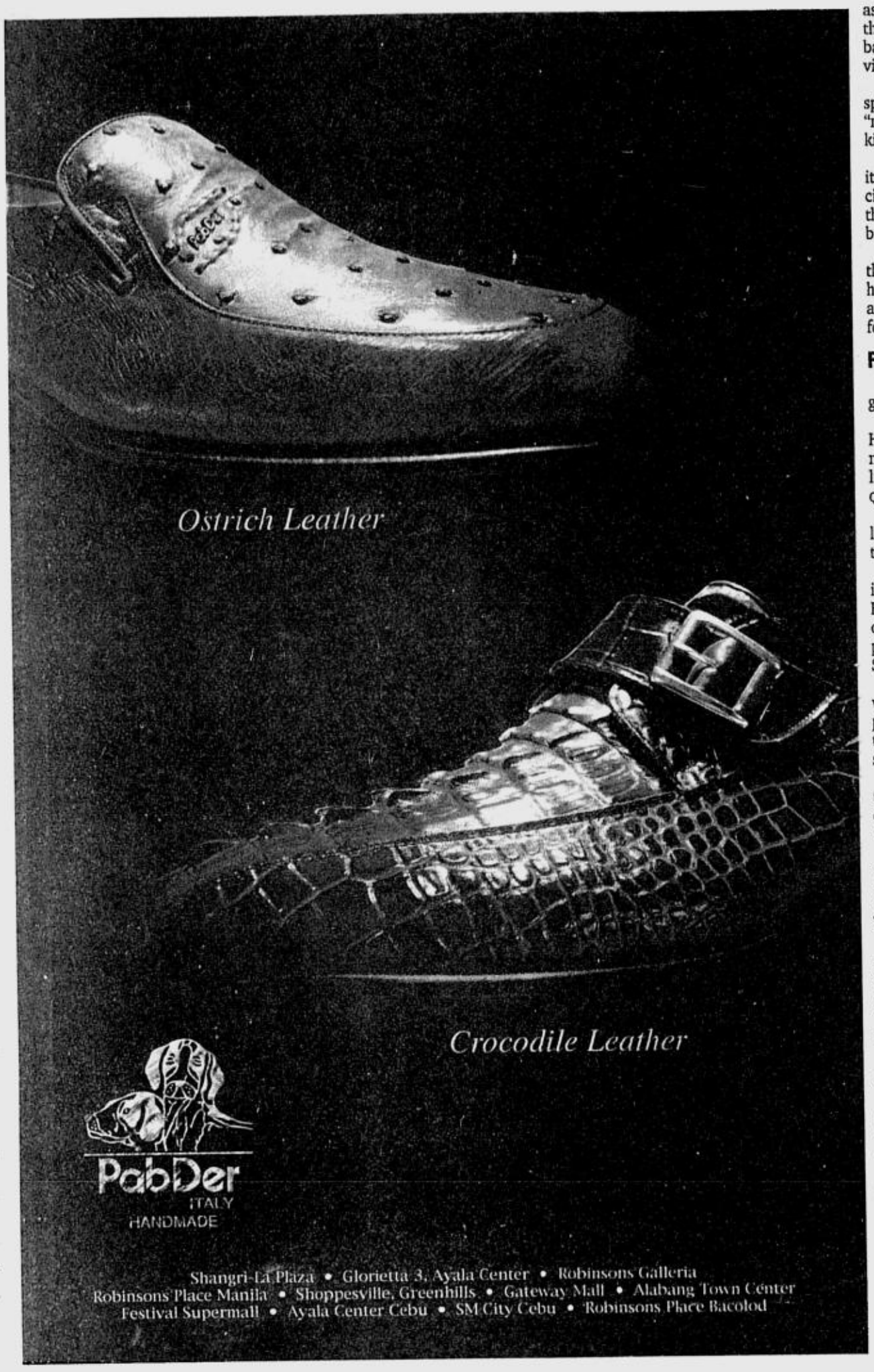
The police identified the men as Wally Monis, 40, a barangay tanod; Reynante Alano, 32, a vendor, and Nemie Maniega, 60, a dishwasher.

After the three were invited for questioning at the WPD, they eventually admitted that they had taken Perez's cell phone and watch, saying they had been tempted to do so. They then pawned the items and divided the cash among themselves.

The three also apologized for what they did.

Police were able to trace the person to whom the items were sold.

Arevalo said the police were still thinking about whether to file charges against the three men or not.



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Garbage slide kills 9-year-old scavenger

By Leila B. Salaverria

AT THE age of 9, Lester Cortez wanted to help his family earn a living, and it killed him.

Lester should have been in school as a fourth grade student. Instead he was at the Manila dump at Pier 18 of the Manila North Harbor.

The boy was sifting through mounds of trash, looking for plastic bags and other reusable materials which he hoped to sell at a neighborhood junkshop in Vitas, Tondo.

His find could have earned him a few pesos to add to the income of his family of nine, of which he was the third of seven siblings.

But at 10:30 a.m. yesterday, the garbage from which Lester's family got its livelihood killed him.

Fellow scavengers told police that Lester was on the side of a huge mound of trash when loose garbage slid down and came crashing down on the boy.

According to SPO1 Dennis Javier, Lester was buried in several feet of garbage and although fellow scavengers were quick to respond, they failed to get to him out alive.

The 9-year-old was rushed to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

Javier said the boy only had minor cuts and bruises on his body and probably died of suffocation.

The investigator gathered that Lester and his family were regular fixtures at Pier 18, which is supposed to serve as a garbage transfer station and not a dump.

The boy's father, Sonny, told Javier that Lester stopped going to school to help his parents earn a living.

Scavenging was also supposed to be prohibited at the site.

The Cortez family lives in one of the shanties located near the dump.

And while Lester died trying to earn some money, his family is worried because they do not have money to spend for his burial.

Taguig moves closer to cityhood

By Ruth L. Navarra

THE COMMISSION on Elections has approved the conversion of Taguig from a municipality to a city.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano had blocked an application for cityhood in 1998, on the grounds that Taguig's population was not enough to merit a new congressional district.

The Supreme Court had earlier directed the Comelec to reinstate the petition to annul the 1998 plebiscite results rejecting cityhood, and ordered a recount, with the yes votes winning. "Cityhood doesn't mean higher taxes but higher expectations," said Mayor Freddie Tiñga.

Police thought boy was a drug courier

By Christian V. Esguerra

HIS AGE made him suspect.

On Monday night, 12-year-old Amir Hussein Aghaali Maghazeh went out to buy medicine for his father.

But as he stepped out of their compound on J. Ruiz Street, San Juan at about 9 p.m., three men got out of a police car and blocked his path.

Two of the men were later identified as Inspectors Mark Laurence Oliva and Ricardo de Guzman.

The boy, the son of an Iranian businessman, told the INQUIRER that the men asked him where he was going.

He told them that he was out to buy medicine and showed the P100 bill his father had given him. But one of the men allegedly tried to grab the money, prompting him to resist and try to run.

Soon, he was staring at the barrel of a pistol. Another man allegedly grabbed him and began pounding his head on the wall.

On Wednesday he and his father filed a complaint against the San Juan policemen before the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame.

Supt. Rodel Jocson, San Juan police chief, later admitted that his men mistook the boy for a drug courier.

He explained that Maghazeh came out of a compound where a suspected drug peddler was known to be living.

"It is common knowledge among those who know police work that children are often used as drug couriers," said Jocson, adding that they could not stop the boy from filing a complaint.

Judge sends prosecutor to jail

By Luige A. del Puerto

A DAY after arguing her way out of police custody, Pasig City Prosecutor Romana Reyes was finally brought to jail yesterday on a contempt charge.

On Wednesday, Judge Julia Reyes of the Pasig City Metropolitan Trial Court ordered policemen to detain Prosecutor Reyes for a day for indirect contempt of court.

Judge Reyes had taken issue with the prosecutor because the latter allegedly failed to attend court hearings for four days in October. In the process, a total of 119 cases were not heard on those days, the judge said. Police said they were simply following the judge's order, and would book and detain the prosecutor.

Prosecutor Reyes would already have spent a day in detention Wednesday had not Pasig Executive Judge Jose Morallos intervened, citing that the temporary restraining order the prosecutor had obtained from another court was in order, and therefore, she should be allowed to leave the area.

That same day, the feisty judge also ordered the detention of lawyer Fortunato Pagdanganan and another woman, who asked not to be named, for indirect contempt of court.

Prosecutor Reyes, in turn, accused the judge of abuse of authority. Her troubles began on Oct. 1, when Judge Reyes ordered her to submit a case for inquest, she said. Reyes said she did not follow the judge's order because it was already 7 p.m., and there was no authority from the city's chief prosecutor for her to do so.

She added that she was not able to attend the hearings because she was sick. The prosecutor said the court staff knew her condition, but the judge had cited her for contempt just the same.

Rap against Atienza junked

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR THE Manila City government, a lingering issue on the legality of oil firm operations inside the Pandacan Oil Depot has been resolved.

The Office of the Ombudsman has dismissed for lack of merit a complaint against Mayor Lito Atienza for allowing the continued operation of Pilipinas Shell at the depot despite an ordinance ordering the shutdown of the facility.

The issue was carried to the antigraft body by a group that had been calling for the total phaseout of the oil depot.

The group argued that the depot puts the entire Pandacan district at risk in the event of a terrorist attack.

Lawyer Vladimir Cabigao, convenor of the United Front to Oust the Oil Depot, filed the joint criminal and administrative case against the mayor in May last year.

But the Office of the Ombudsman found the charges flimsy.

While Atienza lauded the decision, Cabigao called it erroneous, saying the Ombudsman was "weak on big fish but strong on small fish."

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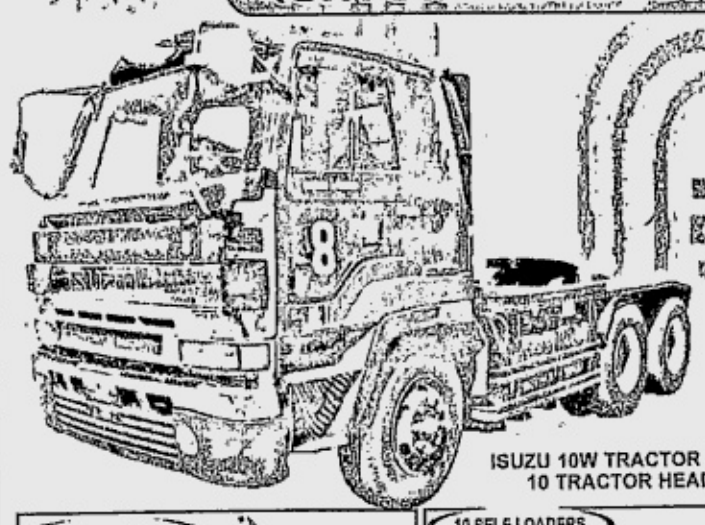

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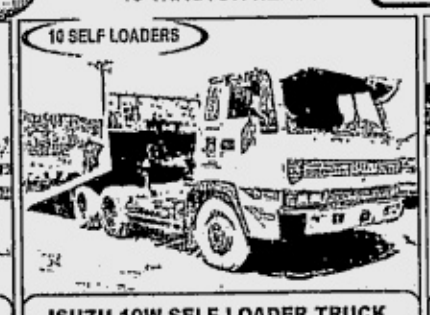

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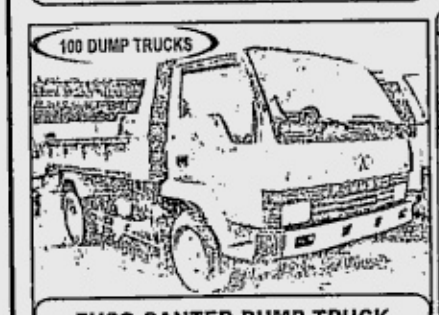

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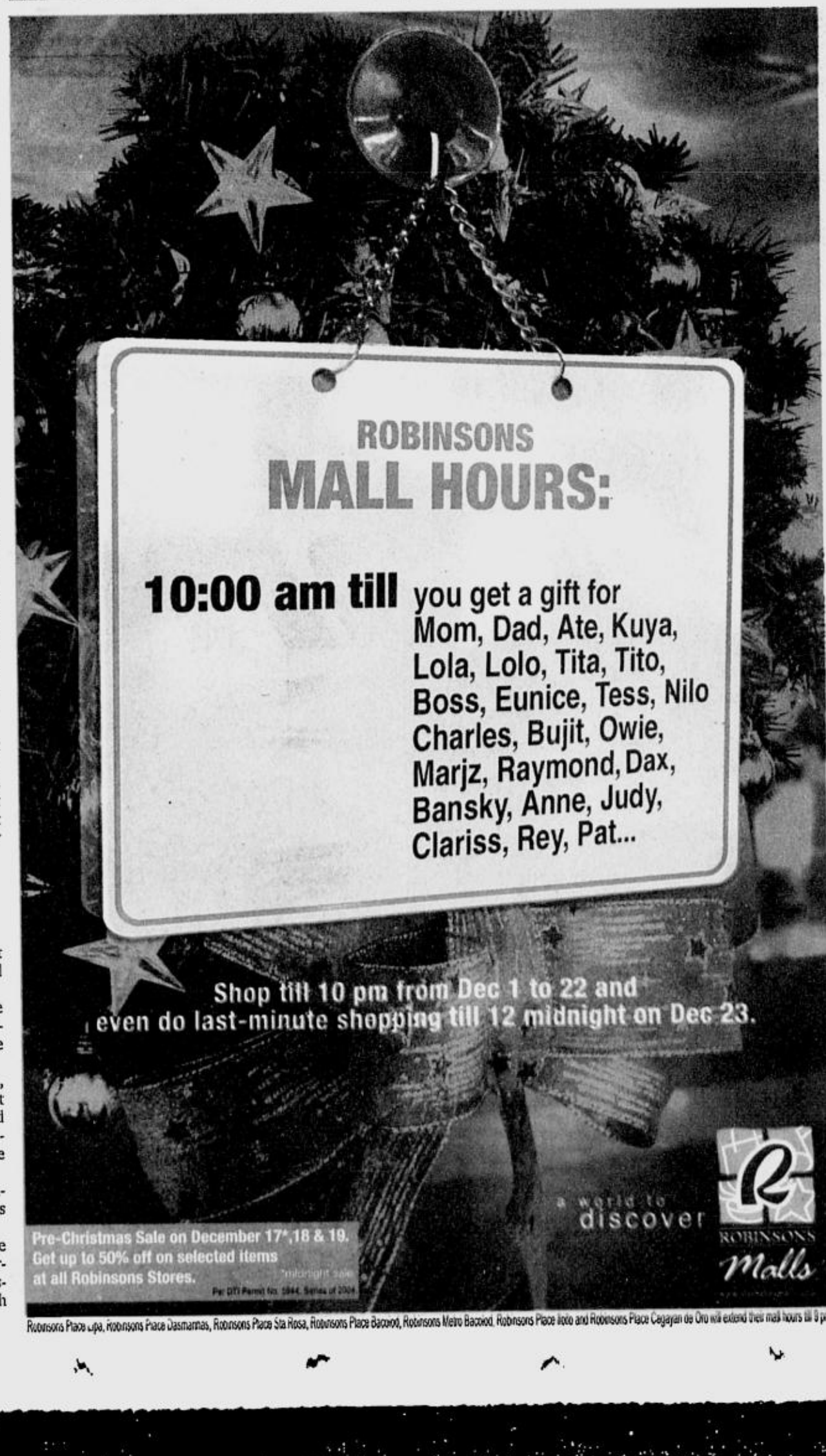

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BASKETBALL: NBA - Rockets vs Spurs; 9 a.m. (r-11 p.m.); Star Sports; Celtics vs Blazers; 11:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports - It's an all-Texas shootout as Houston takes on San Antonio while Boston battles Portland.
US NCAA - TCU vs Kansas; 10 a.m.; Minnesota vs Nebraska; 12 noon; ESPN - The Jayhawks face off against the Horned Frogs while the Golden Gophers take on the Cornhuskers.
FOOTBALL: Tiger Cup; 6:30 p.m.; Star Sports - The Philippines faces a tall order against Malaysia.
BADMINTON: JVC Open Intercollegiate Championship; 7 p.m.; Solar Sports - Catch the county's best college shuttlers in action.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

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A25

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Check out today's Inquirer TV Guide in the Entertainment section
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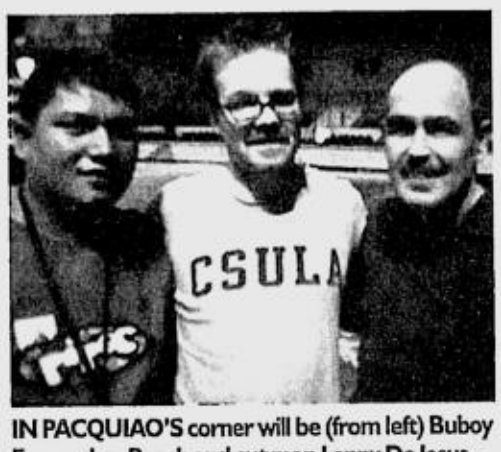
YANIG SA TAGUIG

Thai to rip Pacquiao 'weakness'



IN PACQUIAO'S corner will be (from left) Buboy Fernandez, Roach and cut man Lenny De Jesus.

By Recah Trinidad

THERE were fears Manny Pacquiao's smaller Thai foe could be crushed and taken out of the ring on a stretcher.

But yesterday, Fahsan 3K Battery, a 2-1 underdog, stunned the fight presscon at the exquisite Discovery Suites in Ortigas when he announced he would knock out Pacquiao in their 12-round encounter in Taguig tomorrow night.

That's incredible, considering the disparity in power, build, caliber and total worth of the two combatants.

Promoters, in fact, have been hit for staging what had loomed to be a tasteless mismatch.

Not to worry, Fahsan, in stylish blue jacket and work pants, told the Inquirer, because, he said, only he knows how to stop Pacquiao.

He claimed, very confidently, that he knows of a well-guarded Paquiao weakness.

Fahsan vowed to jump in early, dig hard and tear at the secret soft spot to upset Pacquiao, an overwhelming favorite, in their "Yanig sa Taguig" duel.

But what could be that weakness being kept by Pacquiao who had been floored a few times in his career before he rose to be a world celebrity under Freddie Roach?

"Alam ko rin 'yon (I know what that secret is)" Pacquiao exclaimed.

Featherweight champ

But the Ring Magazine featherweight champ said he has long turn that hidden weakness into a strength and, in fact, plans to use it against Fahsan.

"Yun ang gagamitin ko sa kanya (I'll use it against him)," Pacquiao, who said he was only a measly pound over the 126-lb limit yesterday, announced as he walked past a parade of adoring fans at the hotel lobby.

The two fighters are expected to breeze through the scales in the official 10:30 a.m.weigh-in today at the 2nd floor of the Forbes Town Center at the Bonifacio Global City.

The name of the referee and the composition of the judges in the much-awaited main event will also be announced today.

Known devourer

Fahsan, 30, a known devourer of RP fighters with over 20 Pinoy scalps in his collection, had earlier insisted Pacquiao is not in perfect condition for their bout.

As could only be expected, the peppery Fahsan refused to divulge the alleged Pacquiao Achilles heel, which the Thai claimed he had known and observed quietly even before he came over to Manila for the first time last month.

"He would not even tell what that weakness, that secret is," Jimmy Chachotochuang, Fahsan's manager, told the Inquirer.

The manager however said he sincerely believes what Fahsan has been telling, adding that his fighter could indeed stop Pacquiao and turn RP boxing on its head.

He said his fighter has been excited at the great coverage the fight has generated and plans to make an earth-shaking headline with a stoppage of Pacquiao.

The Thai camp said Fahsan is bound to return to a hero's welcome to Bangkok where Pacquiao is also celebrated as the best featherweight in the world today.

Pacquiao, 25, plans to use the Fahsan fight as a tune-up for his rematch against Juan Manuel Marquez in February.

He refused to make any prediction and instead vowed to do his best for his countrymen, mainly the victims of the recent floodings for whom he donated an initial P200,000.

He said he plans to visit the ravaged areas and console the victims later.

Also being lined-up for Pacquiao by his promoter, Murad Muhammad, who turned the presscon at the Discovery Suites into a personal road show, are multi-million dollar fights against Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera.

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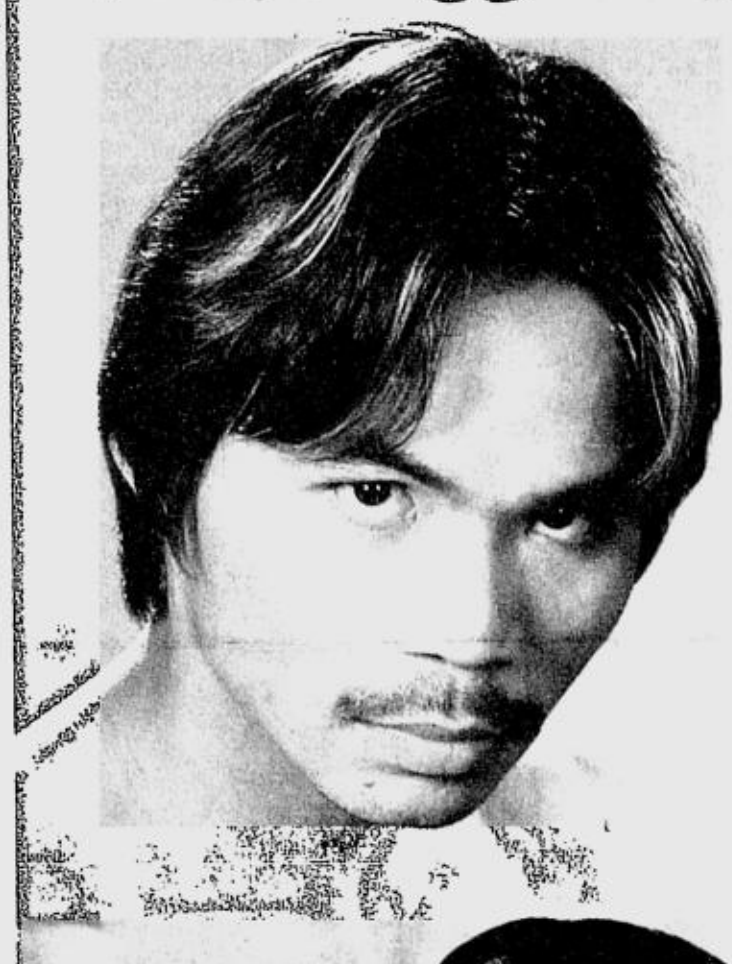


yanig sa Taguig

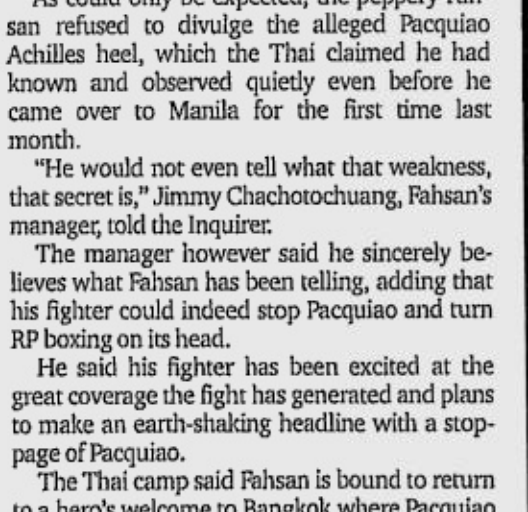
Manny "PACMAN" Pacquiao vs. Fahsan "The Thai Destroyer"

Promoted by Murad Muhammad M&M Sports and Rod Nazario in cooperation with Solar Entertainment Corp.

December 11, 2004
Bonifacio Global City Open Field

For updates and event details, text PACMAN to 290.

Tickets are available in all SM Ticketnet outlets and Wildcard Boxing Gym.
Ticket Prices: P10,000 / P5,000 / P2,500 / P1,000 / P100



Come together at PETRON Treats
Everyone deserves a treat.

Phone Pals try to halt slide vs Beermen

By June Navarro

COACH Joel Banal once feared that without Asi Taulava, teams would, sooner or later, overwhelm the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

"It's just a matter of time before they'd catch up," Banal said back then when the Phone Pals were in the midst of a win streak that installed them at the top of the heap.

True to his prediction, the Phone Pals, although still on top, now need to win badly when they clash with the San Miguel Beermen today in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Phone Pals are hoping to snap out of a three-game losing spell when they collide at 4:30 p.m. against the struggling Beermen, who recovered from back-to-back setbacks by beating Purefoods the other night.

The TJ Hotdogs try to regroup against Sta. Lucia's basement-dwelling Realtors in the 7:20 p.m. match.

With four assignments left in the 18-game eliminations, the Phone Pals are bidding to win at least two and pray that the Barangay Ginebra Kings lose two of their last five games to get a clear shot at the top two spots.

The No. 1 team and the second-ranked squad after the eliminations get a free ride to the semifinals while Nos. 3 and 4 earn a twice-to-beat incentive over their quarterfinal foes.

Banal and the Phone Pals are still on top with a 10-4 record but the Shell Turbochargers (10-5) and the Gin Kings (9-4) are fast closing in on the leader.

The Beermen, on the hand, have stopped training their sights on one of the two luxury seats and are just hoping to get the right chemistry in time for the playoffs.

The Beermen (7-7) are in the hunt for the twice-to-beat advantage along with the TJ Hotdogs (7-7), Red Bull Barako (6-7) and Coca-Cola (6-9).

Meanwhile, the Alaska Aces blew a 22-point cushion but recovered their rhythm in time to upend the FedEx Express, 114-102, and make the night doubly special for Bong Hawkins at the Urdaneta Sports and Cultural Center in Urdaneta City.

Hawkins reached another milestone by becoming only the fourth player in league history to compile 500 steals, 2,000 defensive rebounds and 1,000 offensive boards after Ramon Fernandez, Robert Jaworski and Philip Cezar.

Barangay Ginebra trounced Shell in the second game to improve to 10-4 and share the lead with Talk 'N Text.

STANDINGS	W	L
Talk 'N Text	10	4
Shell	10	5
Barangay Ginebra	9	4
Purefoods	7	7
San Miguel Beer	7	7
Red Bull	6	7
FedEx	5	8
Alaska	5	9
Coca-Cola	6	9
Sta. Lucia Realty	4	9

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Talk 'N Text
7:20 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Really vs Purefoods

La Salle lady cagers win

KRISTINE Prado banged in 15 points as La Salle-Manila waylaid Colegio de San Lorenzo, 88-40, recently in the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) women's basketball tournament at the Pasay Sports Complex.

The Lady Archers, one of the tournament favorites, hiked their record to 5-1.

In men's action, Mike Bencito fired 21 points to lead Rizal Technological University to an 82-76 triumph over La Salle-Dasmariñas even as Arellano U moved closer to a quarterfinal berth following a 76-69 beating of host PATTS College of Aeronautics.

RTU now shares a 3-1 card with National College of Business and Arts.

Paping Daroya hit nine points of his 17-point tally in the last 10 minutes to power the Flaming Arrows past the Seahorses.

Daroya's baskets came just as the Seahorses' offensive thrusts began to wane in the last four minutes, setting the Flaming Arrows to their fourth triumph in five matches.

BEN GORDON (7) soars for a dunk. AP

T-Wolves gore Sixers; Sonics end Spurs run

NEW YORK—Eddie Griffin scored a career-high 27 points and Latrell Sprewell returned from suspension to score 24 as Minnesota clobbered the Philadelphia 76ers, 119-84, in National Basketball Association play Wednesday.

Kevin Garnett had 19 points, eight rebounds and seven assists in just 31 minutes for the Timberwolves, who have won six of their last seven games.

Minnesota was never in trouble, leading, 61-48, at the half before a 12-0 run early in the third quarter put the game out of reach.

Sprewell was playing his first game since sitting out a one-game suspension for yelling a vulgarity at a female fan in Los Angeles Saturday night. He shot 9-for-14, including 5-for-8 from 3-point range.

Wally Szczerbiak added 12 points for the T-Wolves, who scored at least 29 points in every quarter while shooting 49.4 percent.

Andre Iguodala had 18 points to lead the Sixers, while Marc Jackson had 16 as Philadelphia lost its sixth straight game.

Allen Iverson had 14 points for the Sixers, but he went just 2-for-13 while making all 10 of his freethrows.

In San Antonio, Ray Allen scored 29 points as the Seattle SuperSonics ended San Antonio's 21-game home winning streak with a 102-96 win over the Spurs.

The Spurs (16-4) saw their eight-game winning streak snapped while the Sonics (16-3) won for the seventh time in eight games. *Reuters*

Complete Results: Minnesota 119 Philadelphia 84; Denver 111 Washington 105; Memphis 97 Atlanta 89; Detroit 90 Toronto 86 OT; Miami 101 Milwaukee 96; New York 86 New Orleans 79; Chicago 113 Cleveland 85; Seattle 102 San Antonio 96; Orlando 106 Utah 100; Phoenix 113 LA Lakers 110.

Charges filed vs Pacers, fans

PONTIAC, Michigan—Five Indiana Pacers and seven fans were charged Wednesday over the melee that broke out at the end of a nationally televised game against the Detroit Pistons last month, one of the worst brawls in US sports history.

Players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson were charged with one count of assault and battery. Jermaine O'Neal, a three-time NBA All-Star, was charged with two counts of assault and battery.

Five fans were charged with misdemeanor assault and battery, including Pistons star Ben Wallace's brother, David. Bryant Jackson was also charged with felony assault for throwing a chair into the fray.

The misdemeanor carries up to three months in jail and a fine of up to $500, and the felony carries up to four years in prison. *AP*

Encore clamor for Roach

GERRY Peñalosa swore he could have been an even greater fighter if he had already known what Freddie Roach taught at the end of his boxing clinic yesterday.

A select horde of boxing people, trainers, managers, boxers, devotees of the sport, gave Roach, the 2003 trainer of the year, an ovation and clamored for his return to Manila to continue helping improve RP boxing.

"I sure will be back," Roach told his admirers, who later formed a long line to get his signature and also have their picture taken with the man who molded Manny Pacquiao into one of the world's hottest boxing celebrities.

Peñalosa who, together with top super flyweight Z Gorres, helped Roach demonstrate various techniques, said he's now doubly sure of beating world super bantamweight king Rafael Marquez after learning more from Roach.

Main beneficiaries of the two-day clinic, organized by lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud and sponsored by the Philippine Sportswriters Association with support from the Philippine Sports Commission, were the members of the RP national amateur boxing stable whose coaches and fighters attended the two-day clinic at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Of great help in the demonstration was PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, himself a boxing student, who interpreted Roach's brilliant pointers for the benefit of the participants who later got their certificates of attendance.

The two-day clinic, a dream of Salud, the founding secretary general of the WBC, could be expanded because there are plans to have Roach stay in the country longer in his next visit.

Ronnie Nathanielsz, who helped organize the clinic together with Rhea Navarro and Queenie Evangelista, said he would look for sponsors and project directors to have Roach hold a longer, more expansive clinic in the future. *Recah Trinidad*

PBL LEADER

Montaña trips G. Goose

JV CASTRO of ICTSI guards Wynsjohn Te of Air Philippines. RUDY ESPERAS

GAMES TOMORROW (*San Sebastian Gym, Cavite City*)
2 p.m.—Toyota-Otis vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Welcoat

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MONTAÑA Jewel banked on Alex Compton to deliver the key baskets that crushed Granny Goose, 74-63, yesterday and firmed up its hold of the lead in the PBL Open championship at the University of Santos Tomas gym.

Compton exploded for eight straight points—including back-to-back three-pointers—that allowed the Jewels to pull away for good midway through the fourth quarter and chalk up their seventh victory in nine games.

The Snack Masters, who trailed most of the way, never recovered and suffered their third straight defeat and fourth overall for a 6-4 record.

With erstwhile coach Franz Pumaren finally showing up to boost its morale, ICTSI-La Salle demolished Air Philippines to improve to 4-6 in the second game.

Pumaren, who announced his retirement after La Salle won the UAAP crown this year, was on the bench as the Archers drove the Flight to their eighth loss in 10 games.

Montaña hit 29 of 64 attempts, including an 8-of-16 clip from the three-point lane, while Granny lived up to its name, plodding along and missing miserably with a 23-of-59 shooting, including 2-of-18 from the three-point area.

Compton topscored with 21 points, 10 of them in the fourth quarter, aside from eight rebounds, three assists and one steal.

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 74—Compton 21, Salvador 15, Capus 12, Dela Cuesta 7, Baguilon 6, Magpayo 6, Junio 5, Guerrero 2, Vergara 0, Mercado 0, Espiritu 0, Tolentino 0, Juntilla 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 63—Layonlo 11, Quinahan 9, Ibanes 9, Santos 8, Grualdo 7, Concha 4, Capali 4, Almeda 4, Larong 3, Lanete 2, Cruz 3, Cervantes 0.

Quarters: 22-15, 44-31, 60-52, 74-63.

Snipers, Jewelers begin URBL finals

GAME TODAY
(*Santo Domingo People's Center*)
5 p.m.—Ilocos Sur Snipers vs M. Lhuillier-Cebu City
GAME TOMORROW
(*Santo Domingo People's Center*)
5 p.m.—M. Lhuillier-Cebu City vs Ilocos Sur Snipers

SANTO Domingo, Ilocos Sur—The Ilocos Sur Snipers and M. Lhuillier-Cebu City begin their best-of-five championship series today in the United Regional Basketball League at the Santo Domingo People's Center here.

At stake is the distinction to be the first ever champion of URBL and the 5 p.m. encounter is expected to be tough to the very end.

The Snipers claimed the No. 1 spot after the double-round semifinals and playing the first two games before their hometown crowd will be a big boost in their bid for a 2-0 start in the best-of-five championship series of this tournament sponsored by Lactovitale and adidas.

However, the Jewelers hold a 3-1 edge over the Snipers in their four meetings this conference. Moreover, the Snipers only loss at home came from the hands of M. Lhuillier, 83-85, last Oct. 24.

Cebu City Councilor and Jewelers coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba told his wards to steal at least one of the two back-to-back games and hopefully wrap up the series in front of their home fans.

"This will be our humble Christmas gift to the Cebuanos," said coach Alcoseba.

Boosting the Jewelers' chances is the full recovery of spitfire Bong Marata from injury. Marata, who averages 12.5 points per game, returned in time to steer the team to victory in their last two semifinal games, including one over the Snipers, 74-68, in the elimination round finale last Dec. 3.

Backing him up are three of the Jewelers' more consistent scorers—Bruce Dacia (13.3 ppg), James Laygo (13.2 ppg) and Woodraw Enriquez (11.2 ppg) along with Leo Bat-og and Aldrin Ocañada.

Coach Mario Quitoriano fears the absence of starting point guard Orly Torrente, who's nursing a knee injury, could affect the team.

Mike Manigo, Mico Quitoriano and Richard Hardin will have to step up in place of Torrente and alternately set up plays for Snipers top guns Jeff Sanders (13.3 ppg), Allan Yu (11.0 ppg), Jerome Barbosa (10.5 ppg) and Dondon Mendoza (10.4 ppg).

The fight will speak for itself

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I WILL not dignify tomorrow's non-title fight between Manny Pacquiao and Thailand's Fahsan 3K Battery with any further comment. I believe what the boxing fans will see live at the Fort in Taguig and on TV will speak for itself. As far as I'm concerned, I have done my duty to act as a watchdog for pro boxing by alerting the people as to what to expect from the ongoing and dangerous travesty of frequent mismatches and protecting the fans against the gross improprieties committed by sleazy promoters who are robbing the public blind.

***

Veteran basketball player Nelson Asaytono was the biggest revelation of last Wednesday's nerve-frazzling PBA encounter at the Big Dome where never-say-die Red Bull outclassed league-leading Talk 'N Text, 105-96.

A two-time MVP candidate in the late 1980s, the 37-year-old Asaytono provided the spark that enabled coach Yeng Guiao's Barako to beat the TNT Phone Pals, who led, 53-49, at halftime and 78-69 at the end of the third quarter.

Playing inspired basketball, Asaytono teamed up brilliantly with peppery Jimwell Torion, much-improved Rico Villanueva and 2004 slam dunk king Cyrus Baguio. In the last 1:12 of the nail-biting game, Asaytono took the stellar role when he pieced together six points in a row to seal the match for the Photokina franchise, 101-94, time down to just 31.7 seconds.

Asaytono was named "Player of the Game" for his sterling performance.

With the victory, Red Bull moved up to 6-7 in the team standings, while slumping TNT dropped to 10-4.

Known as "The Bull" in the pro league, Asaytono enjoyed his finest years with the Swift Hotdogs and San Miguel Beer during the late 1980s. The 6-foot-3 power forward from Oriental Mindoro had a single high of 48 points with Swift then under coach Yeng Guiao and a career-high average of 23.1 ppg for San Miguel under coach Ron Jacobs.

Guiao said Asaytono will be a big asset to the team which has been badly crippled by the voluntary departure of Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi and the injury suffered by Junthy Valenzuela, Vergel Meneses and Omanzie Rodriguez. "Asaytono's vast experience will surely help our team a lot," said the 42-year-old Guiao.

***

ROBERTO REVERENTE CUP In a fitting tribute to the late Roberto Reverente, who served as executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Manila Jockey Club, officials of the MJC headed by president Alfonso "Boy" Reyno, director Mart Cepeda and marketing boss Henri Kahn assured the wife and son of the late lawyer-sportsman that the Roberto Reverente Cup held last Sunday will now be an annual affair at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Being There, a 4-year-old chestnut mare sired by Distorted Humor out of Fanfare Bubbles, won Sunday's initial staging of the Reverente Cup, beating former Presidential Cup winner Free Wind by two lengths in the 1,600-meter classic. Being There, expertly ridden by jockey Eldy Salvador, covered the distance in 1:40 flat.

MOA SIGNING: PBA commissioner Noli Eala (left) shakes hands with Basketball Association of the Philippines president Tiny Literal after the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the PBA and the BAP Wednesday. With them are BAP secretary general Graham Lim and executive vice president Christian Tan (right).

Sotto brothers

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I WAS about to call it a day on Wednesday when someone called out my name. It was Maru Sotto, the youngest of the golfing Sotto brothers; the others are Tito, Vic and Val. Maru was with Nelson Cheng and Noel Plana at the verandah of the Baguio Country Club. All three were having beer—their way of capping the night. All three, together with Tito and Vic, compose the lineup of Eat Bulaga-Macabud currently competing in the ongoing 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational in the City of Pines.

"Long time no see," said Maru, extending his hand for a handshake. "May I offer you a drink?"

I have known the Sottos for years so that even if my eyelids had become heavy as lead, I couldn't say no to the only Sotto who loves avoiding TV cameras.

"A glass of wine, please?" I said to the waiter.

Des Bautista and Jake Ayson, who were with me on our way to hit the sack, were also invited by Maru to a nightcap and they also ordered wine.

After the usual *kumustahan*, howdy and all, talk inevitably shifted to—you guessed it right—golf.

"Today, the caddie of my fellow competitor lifted my ball sitting beside a tree and then told me to hit it with the tree not in play," Maru said. "I got back my ball, replaced it to its original position behind the tree and, from a stymied position, I hit it. Somebody said afterwards that the caddie's player ought to be penalized for lifting my ball."

Jake and I pulled out the Rules book from our pocket. Rule 18-4 in stroke play says, "If a fellow competitor, his caddie or his equipment moves the player's ball, touches it or causes it to move, there is no penalty. If the ball is moved, it must be replaced."

I had initially thought Maru's opponent was guilty of an infraction. I was right, but only if it were match play. Rule 18-3b says, "If, other than during search for a player's ball, an opponent, his caddie or his equipment moves the ball, touches it purposely or causes it to move, except as otherwise provided in the Rules, the opponent incurs a penalty of one stroke. It the ball is moved, it must be replaced."

Nelson Cheng complained about a flightmate who insisted that Nelson hit his ball from a spot that Nelson deemed was not the right place to make his stroke.

"When I refused to heed him, he said, 'Are you looking for trouble?' Even as he had his driver in his hands, I stood my ground and said to him, 'It's up to you.' He backed off," said Nelson.

Jake reminded Nelson that a player always has the final say on what to do with his ball. "Not even a rules man can force a player to do a thing against his will during a round," Jake said.

And then we came to the main meat of the night: Eat Bulaga-Macabud "scoring" 56 points on Tuesday when the truth was, the team scored 93. The story, which also falsely mentioned that Eat Bulaga-Macabud was 12th among 13 teams entered in Fil's Flight B (it was 6th), came out in the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

"We got heckled left and right by our friends and fans alike," said Maru. "One said, '*gumastos pa kayo sa bonggang anibersaryo ng* Eat Bulaga! *Pero nagkalat naman kayo sa* golf.'"

Turned out that 56 was the total output of Maru, Nelson and Noel, which means the scores of Tito and Vic, who finished late in the day, had been left out.

"But what really hurt was the item in the story that Tito and Vic played badly so that their scores were not registered," said Maru. "The truth is, Tito was the team's top scorer that day and Vic was third best. Today, Tito is our top scorer again and Vic third best anew."

The correct scores were printed in yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER but even before the erratum came out, I had to apologize to Maru in this night of near-wintry chill at the BCC verandah.

"When Tito learned about the error in the news report, he advised us to just stay cool," said Maru of his brother, the former senator of the republic.

From his hotel room, Vic also relayed his dismay to me through the cell phone while I was at the verandah. But otherwise, he also took things in stride.

"*Nabukulan kami sa kantiyaw* but after talking to you, I felt better," Vic said. "A rectification would solve everything."

Bottom line is, the Sotto brothers really played it cool amid the heckling and booing. No fuss. No hysteria.

I have known them for years to be that way, even when anyone of them was under the most trying of times.

Horsemen demand Dilag's resignation

A BIG group of disgruntled horsemen, some with their horses in tow, picketed the Philippine Racing Commission office yesterday to demand the resignation of Philracom chair Jaime Dilag and his five commissioners over the mandatory Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing issue.

Bearing placards denouncing the Philracom's alleged unlawful order on the EIA testing, the protesting owners and their supporters marched from the Santa Ana Park to the Electra House to dramatize their disgust over Dilag and Co.' for their reprehensible indifference to the plight of industry players like owners, jockey, trainers and grooms they should be protecting above all."

Some 300 owners, trainers, grooms and supporters joined respected businessmen-sportsmen William Dag, lawyer Narciso Morales and Francisco Araneta, among others, in condemning the Philracom's continued refusal to heed a Department of Agriculture order which had classified EIA as a negligible horses illness.

"Don't Kill Me" and "Don't Kill My Investor" signs were plastered on the side of the horses to symbolize the protest against the unilateral order.

HORSEMEN demonstrate their protest.

RP tracksters shine in Bangkok

FLASHING their old forms and rekindling their past glories, Filipino veteran athletes scored a triumphant bid in the recent 13th Asian Masters Athletics Championships (Amac) held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The 12-man RP team, all members of the newly formed Philippine Masters Athletics Association (PMAA) whose trip was backed by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), collected 10 golds, 7 silvers and 1 bronze in the Dec. 1-5 event.

"Our veterans' feat is an encouragement for all our national athletes. Even after retirement, they have shown their will to excel driven by the kind of discipline they harnessed during their active years," said PSC Chair Eric Buhain.

SEA Games veteran Elma Muros-Posadas, also known as the Iron Lady of Philippine athletics, scooped 3 golds in her favorite events—long jump, 100-M dash and hurdles, followed by Erlinda Lavandia who got 2 golds and 1 silver and Emerson Obiena with 1 gold by breaking a new Amac record in the pole vault event.

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Race 4—1. Super Wind 2. Fastellar 3. I Romain
Race 5—1. American Woman 2. Fiery Red/Suppressed 3. Being There 4. Sound Offer
Race 6—1. At All Cost 2. Perfect Vision 3. Apex 4. Extreme Illusion 5. Sir Brendan Jean
Race 7—1. Noble Principality 2. Friendly Lover 3. Valiant Queen 4. Classy Babe
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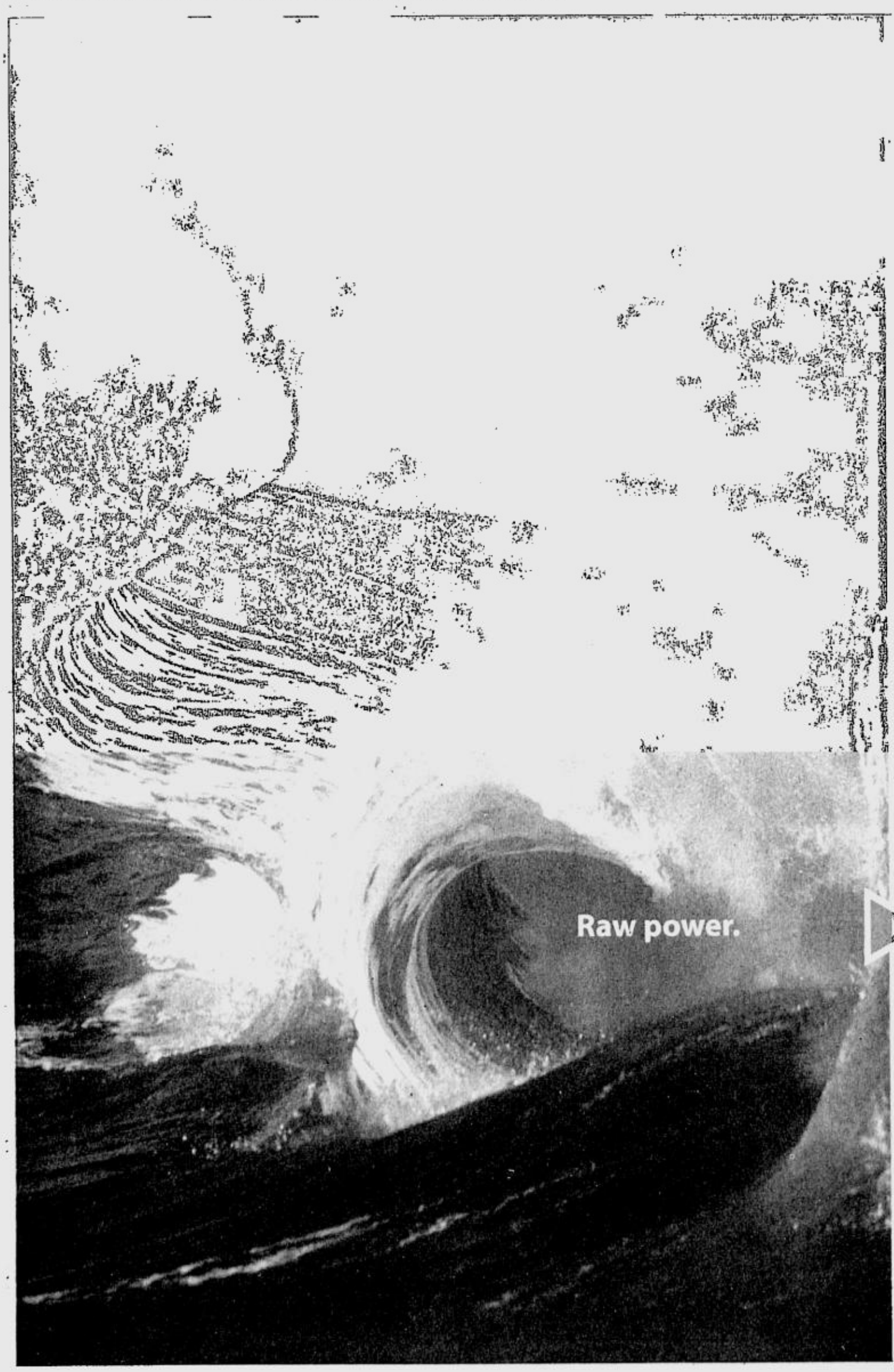

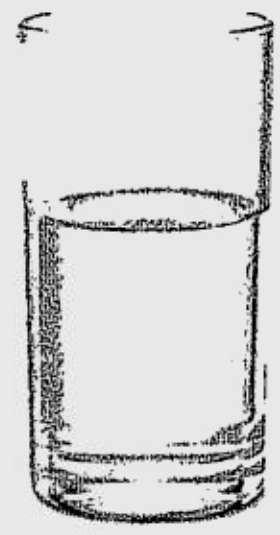

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MERALCO

Fil-Am rout looms as Nike bets pull away from field

By Musong R. Castillo.

BAGUIO City—With lineups that could easily pass for national squads, Nike Golf flexed its might in both divisions at the start of championship play in the 55th Fil-Am Golf Invitational Thursday, opening up huge leads to set itself up for a twin-kill this early.

Jay Bayron and Jun Bernis both signed for three-under 66s at John Hay for 39 points each, as Nike pooled a 149 total to zoom ahead by 14 over Southwoods in the Fil category despite getting a quiet 36—level 69—from ace Juvic Pagunsan.

Boyet Saragoza turned in a 35 and Abe Rosal's 32 did not count for Nike, whose Am team at the par-61 Baguio Country Club got an even 36 points from Tommy Manotoc and 32s from Ronnie Torrecampo, JR Tanpinco and Dave Hernandez for a 132 total and a 13-point cushion also on Southwoods.

Matthew Manotoc's 30, which could have spearheaded any other team's output, did not count for the Nike Am team.

Gene Bondoc and Jun Jun Plana both carded 70s worth 35 points for Southwoods, which only got a 33 from former RP Amateur champ Artemio Murakami and a disappointing 31 from national team rookie Michael Bibat that was thrown away.

Junior standout Tonlits Asistio was the fourth-best scorer for Southwoods with a 32.

Defending Fil champion Mizuno got the day's highest score, a medal 65 for 40 points, from Marvin Dumandan, but not the support from the rest of its lineup as it struggled with a 131 for third place.

Laurence Negrido had a 32, Erwin Vinluan a 31 and Francisco Lopez a 28 to round out the Mizuno score. Raymund Sangil's 21 did not count.

Del Monte, the reigning PAL InterClub champion, was a farther four points behind at fourth after Louie Dacudao churned out a 70 for 35 points.

"The boys are determined, and that's nice," said Manotoc, returning to the event after several years because of a ruling dispute.

JAY Bayron (left) and Jun Bernis: Spearheads of Nike Golf

Letran tossers trip SSC rivals

LETRAN went to its offense when its defense began to sputter and fashioned out a 25-20, 26-24, 26-28, 21-25, 17-15 victory over San Sebastian yesterday in the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Coliseum.

Cherry Rose Macatangay-Rivera and Joan Botor-Carpio starred in Letran's second victory in three games.

Botor-Carpio, an Air Force sergeant, scored 31 of his game-high 34 points on attacks, including the powerful clincher that ended the two-hour, 17-minute contest.

Not to be outdone, Carpio, a Navy Seawoman second class, spiked her seven hits with 44 excellent sets as the Lady Knights moved up to solo third behind University of Santo Tomas (3-0) and Philippine Sports Commission (3-1).

37 players join ITT Invt'l Pro-Am golf

A MERRY mix of the past, the present and the future makes up the small but crack cast that sees action in the first-ever Ideal Travel and Tours Invitational Pro-Am that tees off Monday at Canlubang's tree-lined North course.

Veteran Caloy Nival is the man to beat in Senior play, Antonio Lascuna tries to add another title to what has been a brilliant year and Juvic Pagunsan leads a crack amateur field in the 36-hole event bankrolled by northern Luzon fishing tour specialist ITT.

Thirty-seven players are seeing action with Mario Siodina, Rey Alit and national swing coach Roger Retuerto out to crowd Nival for the top senior prize of P35,000.

Former Philippine Open champion Robert Pactolerin, Asian Tour veteran Carito Villaroman and Danny Zarate and journeyman Eddie Bagtas loom as the top choices together with Lascuna in the men's division that stakes P50,000 to the winner.

Pagunsan's World Amateur teammates Michael Bibat and Artemio Murakami lead the homegrown field in the amateur division, which also drew a six-man Japanese team led by ITT honorary chair Tetsuo Ochi.

SPORTSWATCH

Trust Premiere/Bosch Team triumphs

THE TRUST Premiere/Bosch Team grabbed the top two overall spots in the Normally Aspirated (NA) division of the 2004 Yokohama Miata Cup held over the weekend. Former rookie sensation Jose Luis Romero-Salas and teammate Romy David took first and second places, respectively, in a down-the-wire season which went down to the final two rounds at the Subic International Raceway. They finished with identical 78 points with the NA championship awarded to Romero-Salas due to his four first- place finishes.

Asian Games 3K Fun Run at Baywalk

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee will hold an Asian Games 3K Fun Run for kids 14 and below on Dec. 19 at the Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard with 300 children expected to participate. A project of the Asian Olympic Committee to promote the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, the local leg of the fun run is the culminating leg in the series also held in India, Korea, Thailand, and China. The event is hosted by the city government of Manila with Mayor Lito Atienza as special guest.

PCCA 4-cocker gets going today

BIG-TIME cockfighting resumes today as the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-Cock Derby gets going at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit with more than 50 fights on tap. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free. This will be the first in a series of derbies to be presented by PCCA for the 2004-2005 season, said pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano. The PCCA Cocker of the Year winner will be chosen after the series. For details, contact 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750.

Enriquez Apordabol Na derby winner

TANAY, an entry of hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, lived up to its billing as pre-tournament favorite by winning the championship of Roligon Mega Cockpit's Apordabol Na, Incredibol Pa 5-Cock Derby Wednesday night. Enriquez fielded a combination of McLean Roundheads and Sweater Kelsos, all of them proven winners in big-time derbies, to clinch the title after posting a perfect score of five points. The event, participated in by 225 cockers and breeders all over the country, was hosted by promoter Rolly Ligon. A prize of P2 million and a Pajero went to the winners.

FG calls off pledging session

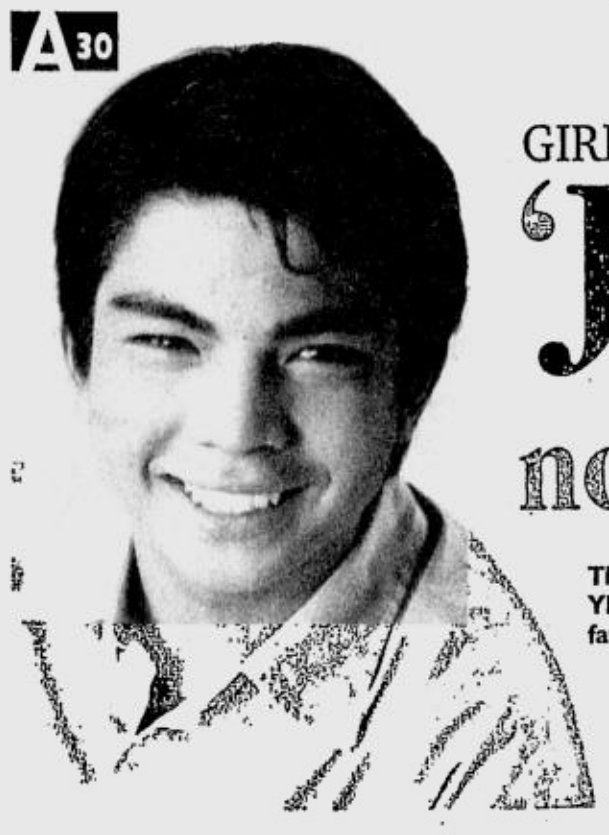
FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo yesterday called off the pledging session set this Saturday at Malacañang intended to raise funds for the country's athletes in next year's Southeast Asian Games, opting instead to address the more urgent needs of the victims of the recent typhoons that wreaked havoc in various provinces. Mr. Arroyo reset the pledging session to January next year.

Castañares meets foe in weigh-in

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Philippine junior welter king Dindo Castañares of Cebu will meet for the first time his Colombian-born, Auckland-based opponent Guillermo "Pantera" Mosquera today during the official weigh-in to be held at the Portage Peninsula Hotel Avondale here. World Boxing Foundation president Mick Croucher of Australia will be supervising the weigh-in, which will be beamed live here by TV3. Castañares and Mosquera, the New Zealand junior welter champ, will vie for the vacant WBF junior welter crown on Saturday in a 12-round showdown at the Unitec ETA Stadium.

Salven Lagumbay, contributor

PBA TIMEOUT@EVER GOTESCO: Joel Go, (left) executive assistant to the president of the Ever Gotesco Group of Companies, and PBA commissioner Noli Eala sign the contract making the Ever Gotesco malls the venue of the PBA Interactive Display set January to February 2005. With them are Chie Arao, (standing, left) marketing manager of Ever Gotesco Malls, and IMG country manager Princess Galura.



THE 16-YEAR-OLD father-to-be

GIRL MOM EXPECTS A BOY IN JANUARY

'Jolo made Osang's daughter pregnant but they're not getting married'

By Nini Valera

JOLO Revilla, 16, son of Sen. Bong Revilla and actress Lani Mercado, has made Rosanna Roces' daughter, Grace Adriano, 15, pregnant, according to the boy's mother.

Grace is already eight months pregnant and is due to give birth on Jan. 15, according to Lani, despite Osang's consistent and angry denial earlier.

"But the two will not get married," Lani told INQUIRER Entertainment last Wednesday. "They are both underage. They can decide later if they want to get married."

Grace is expecting a boy, Lani said, citing the results of ultrasound tests the girl took last Monday.

In a phone conversation with Rosanna, the former talk show host said she had wanted to break the news of her daughter's pregnancy to the public on her birthday last May.

"Actually, I am so happy about the baby," she said in Filipino. "I wanted to announce the coming of the baby myself. But what happened was the news became an ugly rumor even before I could announce it."

Osang is referring to her battle with former manager Lolit Solis and former friend Dr. Vicki Belo, both of whom Osang had accused of starting the rumor about Grace's pregnancy. The skirmish has led to a court battle among the parties.

The actress had also consistently denied that Grace is pregnant. She apologized to INQUIRER Entertainment for keeping the truth away.

"I'm sorry I did not admit it then," said Osang. "The incident was blown up into a vicious issue. I just wanted to protect my daughter from the repercussions. It would have been best if there were no rumors, just my announcement. But things got out of hand when people started talking about it."

Osang and her husband, Tito Molina, who had been together for 10 years, separated last Monday. Osang said the separation is for good. Sordid details of the split were published in a tabloid last Wednesday.

Lani said it took her this long to admit that she and Bong would soon be grandparents because they were respecting Grace's wish that the pregnancy be kept a secret because she wanted to go to school. Lani also claimed that they denied the pregnancy at the time they were interviewed about it on TV because Jolo had not yet admitted it to them.

"We found out [the truth about the pregnancy] only after we talked on TV," Bong also told INQUIRER Entertainment over the phone.

Lani said Jolo had told them about the pregnancy after that TV interview. She said her son had also requested that they keep the pregnancy to themselves because Grace was not yet ready to admit it in public.

"From the start, I was worried about Grace and the baby," Lani divulged. "She was just locked up in her room and refused to see anybody when the rumor about her pregnancy spread. Through Jolo, I was trying to open doors for her. I told them, Grace could still go to school even if she's pregnant. She could take up home study courses or take classes through the computer. Everything was really up to her."

Lani said she and Bong would stand by the children even if they had decided that it was not the right time for them to get married. Jolo and Grace, being minors, still need parental consent to get married.

"I had a serious talk with Jolo when I found out about the pregnancy," Lani confided. "I told him he has to be responsible for their child. He would be the one supporting the baby. But Bong and I would help if he needs it."

Jolo has a two-year contract with ABS CBN. Lani said Jolo has a decent income from show biz and would be capable of supporting the child. But she said she still has to discuss her son's case with Malou Santos, SVP for Drama Production and Star Cinema.

Lani said she and Bong have maintained contact with Osang. She said they agreed to talk again about announcing the pregnancy last Monday. They were supposed to have talked again last Thursday.

Eighteen years ago, Lani and Bong had found themselves in the same situation. Lani was 18 and Bong 19 when they got married in the US because Lani was pregnant with their eldest son Bryan. Jolo is the couple's second child.

ROSANNA claims she almost told the truth earlier.

LANI says she's concerned about Grace.

"Our situation is different," Lani said. "We were more mature then. We wanted to get married, and we had to get our parents' consent. We couldn't have gotten married if we did not have their permission."

Osang herself went through the same experience as Grace. She was an unwed mother to Grace and Onyok before she started a relationship with Tito.

The actress also told INQUIRER Entertainment that she and Tito are over.

"I packed his clothes myself and told him to go," said Osang. "Unfortunately, he took two pairs of pants that belonged to Onyok. My son cried, not because Tito left, but because he took with him his pants."

She said Tito was hooked on drugs and had spent some of her money and had mismanaged her businesses, including an auto detailing shop on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City. Tito was also in charge of Osang's farm in Antipolo, which is now the subject of a right-of-way dispute between Osang and local government officials.

"He even touched the trust fund for Grace," said Osang of Tito.

INQUIRER Entertainment could not contact Tito, whose cell phone number has apparently been changed.

Asked where Tito could be found, the feisty actress said: *"Sa kangkungan* [In the trash]."

Only half a minute to shine

From page A32

story of two children's fantastic journey through time to find the best Christmas present ever. Characters who will come to life include Peter Pan, Captain Hook, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Crachit, Tiny Tim and the Holy Family. Call 633-5010.

'George and the Dragon'

TOM Reeve's film, "George and the Dragon," is a medieval romp loosely based on the legend of St. George, England's patron saint and the epitome of knightly chivalry. Having returned from the Crusades, all George really wants to do is settle down and run a modest farm. But destiny takes over with maidens in distress, nasty mercenaries wreaking havoc, and a particularly huge monster.

The film stars **James Purefoy, Patrick Swayze, Michael Duncan Clark, Piper Perabo,** and **Jean Plowright.**

New stars in 'Krystala'

CHANNEL 2's *"superserye,"* "Krystala," acquires even more firepower with the stellar infusion into its regular cast of teen idols **Sandara Park** and **Hero Angeles,** along with new comedienne **Pokwang.**

Hero plays a soldier from the future, who is assigned to assassinate the person who will cause Krystala to lose a pivotal battle.

Sandara plays Kim, the half-sister of Miguel (**Ryan Agoncillo**). A *balikbayan*, she decides that living here isn't all that bad, especially after she meets Hero's character. As for Pokwang, she portrays Fantasia, the newest *diwata* sent to look for Tala, lead star **Judy Ann Santos'** other character.

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Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Aries Espinosa, Editor

Mactan Shangri-La Wins Magazine Award

SHANGRI-LA'S Mactan Island Resort was voted Favorite Resort Hotel and Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Favorite Hotel Chain in Asia in the fourth annual TIME Readers' Travel Choice Awards Survey. The group has won the award every year since the awards' inception.

The survey was open to TIME's readers in Asia and the award winners were voted by the magazine's elite audience of decision-makers, based on their preference of Asia's top brands in the travel sector. The awards not only acknowledge an overall standard of excellence at the winning hotels, they are also testament to each hotel's outstanding customer service and amenities.

General manager Timothy Wright says, "We are honored to have won the trust of TIME magazine's readers. This award attests to the tireless dedication to customer service by the whole team."

Shown is Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippines chair Tomas Zita, and Mactan Shangri-La GM Timothy Wright.

Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts currently manages 44 hotels under the Shangri-La and Traders Hotels brands, in Australia, mainland China, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates with a room inventory of over 21,000. In addition, the group has over 20 projects under development in Canada, mainland China, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Qatar and Thailand.

In Cebu, it operates the 547-room Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort located in Lapu Lapu City. The first ISO-14001 certified resort in the country, it won recently the much coveted Ecology in Economy Award given by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

It's a Merry December at Dusit Hotel Nikko

DUSIT Hotel Nikko invites you to celebrate the holidays with them as they have prepared special Christmas offerings just for you.

Celebrate the holidays with your family at Dusit Hotel Nikko and indulge with the Café's wide array of Asian and International buffet priced at P850.00++ per person. Also included in the buffet are Roast Beef, Sashimi, Sushi and Tempura.

A special Christmas and New Year Yuletide Buffet, which includes a "Champagne Buffet", will be offered for lunch and dinner on Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan 1, 2005 priced at P950++ per person.

Get one free meal whenever you dine with a group of 8, 12 and 16 persons availing themselves of the lunch or dinner buffet, plus free one round of iced tea or soft drink. This is offered for the entire month of December.

Due to popular demand, one of the most appreciated Japanese restaurants by food connoisseurs—Benkay Japanese Restaurant of Dusit Hotel Nikko brings back the Japanese Hot Pot Fair "Nabe Kaiseki" from Dec. 1 to 31 with four choices to choose from. A must try during the cold season, sample fresh seafood with vegetables.

Have a fill of those yummy treats like Christmas Cookies, Pralines and Chocolates, Traditional Ginger Breads and other Christmas delights available at the hotel's Deli Shop. Choose from the many selections that is ideal for gift-giving.

Do not let this month pass without trying any from the five a la carte dishes of the Hue Food Festival--the last of the three-part "Journey to Vietnam" food festival at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Thien Duong Vietnamese restaurant highlighting the best dishes of the Vietnamese regions also from Dec. 1 to 31, 2004. Hue still preserves a tradition of imperial cuisine. Most of the dishes are chicken broth based and is a bit spicy compared to the other regions. Savor Hue's Braised Beef Frank, Roasted Yogurt Marinated Chicken, Hue Noodle Soup with Pork and Beef, Stir-Fried Chicken with Green Pepper and Baby Corn, Sauteed Dry Shrimp with Bamboo Shoot.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 867-3333.

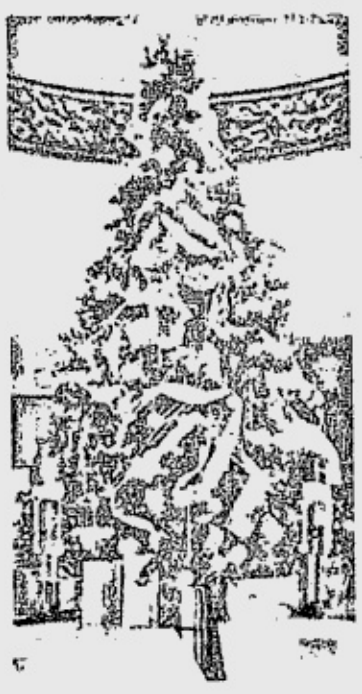
The Bellevue Hotel welcomes 'balikbayans'

THE BELLEVUE Hotel welcomes *balikbayans* back home with its affordable Balikbayan Package. From Dec. 1 to Jan. 30, 2005, Filipinos holding US citizen passports have a chance to enjoy their stay in the country for less.

For only P3,500++ for Deluxe room and P 4,000++ for Business Deluxe, enjoy a host of perks such as daily buffet breakfast for two, round-trip airport transfers, express massage for two at The Bellevue Spa, 20-percent discount on hotel food and beverage outlets, 20-percent discount on spa and salon services, free shuttle service to Festival Mall or Alabang Town Center and four-hour city tour in WOW Philippines Intramuros or half-day car service to Duty Free Philippines. For those availing of suites rooms such as the Executive Suite, Premiere Suite and Bellevue Suite, an amazing 50-percent discount on room rates apply.

The Bellevue Hotel is southern Metro Manila's answer to distinctive hotel living.

Enjoy dining at the Eastern-themed Café D' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant or party the night away at the hotel's entertainment center at the rooftop, the 20/20. Reward yourself with a day of pampering at The Bellevue Spa Club, or lounge by the infinity pool for barbecues. For inquiries, call 771-8181.



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Yuletide Season at The Waterfront Cebu City Hotel

DECK the halls with boughs of holly, 'tis the season to be jolly! It's Christmas once again, doesn't time go by in a blink of an eye. To start of the glorious season's events, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino (WCCHC) held their Ceremonial Lighting of the Tree last Nov. 30. This ceremonial tradition commemorates the start of a jeweled Yuletide season at WCCHC with events that are sure to guarantee happy holidays. Visit Santa's Corner at the hotel's patisserie and boulangerie, Madeleine, and whisper your wish list to Santa 'cause he'll be waiting for you every Saturday from Dec. 4 to 18. Wish Upon A Christmas Tree , still at to 25, where you can make a wish and hang it on the Christmas Tree. In return, you get a yummy Yuletide cookie! Complete the Misa de Gallo at WCCHC's Mezzanine Foyer every 5 a.m. Afterwards, get a bite at the Lobby Lounge's Bibingka and Puto Bumbong Corner which opens at 4 a.m. on Dec. 16, on the first day of the Misa de Gallo. Bask in the Christmas spirit as you enjoy 9 Days of Christmas Carols which starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Lobby Lounge from Dec. 16 to 24. Celebrate Christmas with the Misa de Aguinaldo on Christmas Eve at 10p.m. at the Arctic Room and enjoy a Puppet Show on Christmas Day at 3 p.m. at the Lobby Lounge. But wait! Have a post-Christmas indulgence with Madeleine's Yuletide Bake Sale on the Dec. 26.

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A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

Only half a minute to shine

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE'S a new show on the AXN Channel that could be worth the idle channel surfer's while: Titled "30 Seconds of Fame," the "talent" show gives its contestants just that—at most 30 seconds to get on the good side of the bitchy studio audience, and thus romp off with the P25,000 top prize for each show.

Decades ago, Andy Warhol said that everybody was entitled to his 15 minutes of fame. That was his way of observing that the world had become so obsessed with media, *and* media used up people's lives so quickly, that "fame" had become an exceedingly democratic but self-destructive commodity in modern life.

Well, "30 Seconds of Fame" has taken Warhol's concept one better (or worse), and gives its contestants only half a minute to shine—or be hooted off the stage.

The key is the studio audience's power to applaud or pulverize any and all of the "talents" who subject themselves to its completely subjective verdict.

The audience's decisions are so whimsical that contestants shouldn't take them personally, and viewers shouldn't take them seriously! We should simply regard the competition as frivolous and bitchy "entertainment," and let it go at that.

To be sure, the show does unearth the occasional genuine talent, like the man who practiced for 10 years so that he could play tunes on a portable electronic keyboard—not with his fingers, but by hitting the right keys with *tennis balls*!

Now, that takes not just talent, but also incredible discipline and concentration. Instructively, however, while the innovative musician did get into the finals, he didn't win the top prize.

That dubious honor went to a huge woman who belted out a song with the lung-power of a hippo in heat—which just goes to show that the studio "jurors" aren't exactly big on subtlety.

That being the case, most of the contestants choose to unveil, not real talent, but weird acts like the grandma who does rap, the gymnast who drapes his legs around his shoulders and walks on his hands, and the man with an amazingly malleable nose.

That sort of goony "entertainment" brings out the worst, not just in the performers, but in the studio audience as well. After a while, the show's set begins to look and sound like today's version of the Roman Coliseum in ancient times, when early Christians were ripped limb from limb by vicious lions, to the even more vicious crowd's screeching delight.

So, except for the genuine talents it occasionally showcases, "30 Seconds of Fame" is generally a weird viewing experience—which is ok for viewers who want a little weirdness in their lives, but eventually a turnoff for other others who find it ultimately demeaning for everyone concerned. To which group would *you* belong?

'Peter Pan'

TRUMPETS announces that prices of tickets for its Christmas musical offering, "Peter Pan and the Time Machine," have been reduced. The musical show will be staged at SM Megamall Cinema 10 on Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19.

The musical tells the whimsical

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Big wedding in Lubao for John Lloyd and Bea

'It Might Be You' tele-series writers came up with several finalé options, from the cheesy to the fantastic, before this 'perfect' one was picked

By Amy Mosura
Contributor

SURPRISING but true—December, not June, is statistically the biggest wedding season for Filipinos. It is no surprise, then, that fiction follows fact with the romantic ABS-CBN *teleserye* "It Might Be You" ending with a big wedding. This has taken the all-star cast, led by John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo, all the way to 402-year-old Lubao Church in Pampanga for the final day of shooting.

Although the producers are keeping under wraps the entire sequence of events leading to, and from this climactic wedding scene, the staff and crew have no problem discussing their feelings about the show's conclusion. Maybe it's because they are on day 3 of a marathon taping, and everyone's feeling a strange mix of melancholy and giddiness.

They are making preparations for the wedding scene just past midnight on Wednesday, Dec. 8—the exact date that "It Might Be You" made its prime time debut a year ago.

JOHN Lloyd and Bea. She will miss him; he's cool about it.

TIRSO Cruz III and Jean Garcia walk their 'daughter' to the altar.

Twice 'married'

"I'm only 17, and I've worn a wedding dress twice already!" says Bea Alonzo, whose high spirits, she notes, hide her real feelings about the *teleserye's* conclusion. "I'm feeling a lot of sadness, now that it's finally sunk in that we are on our last taping day. We were all at dinner break just a couple of hours ago, and for some reason, we had a little nostalgia festival —we were talking about all we've gone through over the past year. 'Remember when this happened? And when Tito Pip did this or that?'"

Bea, who's currently working on a film that teams her up with another ABS-CBN heartthrob, Piolo Pascual, admits that her closeness with costar John Lloyd Cruz may be a great factor in her wistfulness over the show's end.

"I've matured a lot in the past year, and my relationship with Lloydy reflects that," she says. "We've been working together for three years, and *iba talaga yung kakulitan niya* (his playfulness is something else). I have to say I'll miss that, now that we're no longer going to see each other on a near-daily basis. But I'm confident that we'll again be working together very soon. I just know it."

He's upbeat

John Lloyd, on the other hand, is taking a characteristically upbeat attitude toward his separation from the "It Might Be You" family, and his "hopefully temporary" separation from Bea. "I'm actually very happy for Bea, because it's a step toward maturity for her, and for me as well," he says. "While over this year, Bea and I have had a successful series, and completed a movie that fans really supported, I honestly think this move by Star Cinema is brilliant, because it avoided creating any unrealistic expectations about any project that would team up Bea and me again. It was a good time for a break, and even if I'll really miss Bea, I have no complaints."

Gilbert Perez, director of the acclaimed film "Jologs" who co-directs "It Might Be You"—along with Don Cuaresma and Retchie del Carmen—has been given the unenviable task of megging this P2-million sequence, which involves thousands of white roses, 800 extras in formal wear driven in from Manila, and complete wedding outfits for all members of the main cast.

"What I'm proudest of is the fact that we ended the series on our own terms, with the ratings still high and the story still strong," Perez notes. "What we're aiming for is to reach the exact note of romance and destiny that we wanted to hit when we began."

Seven drafts

Not that it came easily, reveals Josel Garlitos, one of the series writers. "We went through seven drafts, and a whole lot of really wild endings. We were trying to go back to the original

BIG WEDDING/ A34

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4 2046		4 ONE MISSED CALL		4 BIRTH	4 TAXI
5 BIRTH	4 NATIONAL TREASURE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		5 THE INCREDIBLES	5 FIRST DAUGHTER
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The first single, "You Take my Breathe Away," originally done by Rex Smith, is the most outstanding. Other endearing tracks include "Fallen," "Bewitched Bothered and Bewildered," "You don't Know Me" and the Doors' "Light My Fire."

There are some originals, too, by seasoned producers and composers Nino Regalado, and Margot and Edith Gallardo.

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AT 17, she has worn two wedding gowns.

Big wedding...

From page A33

peg as a fusion of the *teleserye* and the newer, more eccentric *chinovela* genre. In trying to avoid all the soap clichés, we presented out-of-the box ideas." These include an ending that harkens back to the Cielo (Bea Alonzo) character's love of movies, where it's revealed that the past few months were just part of a film that Cielo and Lawrence (John Lloyd Cruz) are watching. A downbeat option has Cielo and Lawrence meeting up in heaven. And there is one where Lawrence becomes a stone statue. Finally, ABS-CBN management and the series' creative team decided that a wedding would be the most satisfying finish. And so a church was found, and a final story line was polished.

The stars and staff take a lot of pride in saying that the show made them a family, and it's easy to see the proof in their actions. Jean Garcia, who plays Cielo's long-lost mother Orlanda, fusses over Bea's gown as she prepares to walk down the aisle, and finally helps arrange Bea's veil herself. On the other end of the aisle, Tirso Cruz III, who plays Cielo's father, the repentant former politico Ernesto Trinidad, cracks jokes to keep the cast members' spirits up at 3 a.m. And Lani Mercado, who plays Farrah, Lawrence's birth mother, maintains easy rapport with friend Jean Garcia from across the makeup table as they both get their game faces on.

Eye opener

"I've been here such a short while compared to the other members of the cast, but it's been a very relevant two months for me," notes Lani. "Personally, I love the people I work with. Professionally, it's my first time working in an ABS-CBN show, and let's just say I've never gotten this much reaction for my work. I even get text messages from Canada now, from people who see the show on TFC. I never knew people could be so affected by a soap."

Grammy goes real-life

LOS ANGELES—The Grammys have gone autobiographical.

Kanye West raps about religion, his fears and his own greatness. Usher steamed up the charts with songs about sex, affairs and breakups. Alicia Keys sang about aching for love, confiding secrets and imagining a different future for herself.

Their reward for the tell-all music—a collection of Grammy nominations Tuesday, 10 for West and eight each for Keys and Usher.

After last year's glossy pop, rap and rock led by OutKast's Grammy-winning "Hey Ya!," all three of these artists energized the charts this year by exposing deeply personal emotions, ideas, desires, flaws and insecurities.

"I think we all put a piece of ourselves, if not all of ourselves —I know I put every single inch—into my music, my songs, my production and everything. I think that's something that can be said for all three of us," Keys told The Associated Press.

Top contender

Producer-turned-rapper West led all Grammy nominees and scored a bid for album of the year for his debut "The College Dropout," which stood out in the rap landscape because of its atypical prose. It avoided the usual plotlines about sex, money and violence and touched on everything from his faith to his fears of failure and other crises from his life.

He also had a nomination for best new artist and shared a songwriting bid for song of the year with his religious hit "Jesus Walks."

The performer is known for bragging. In the press room at the recent American Music Awards, he claimed he was "definitely robbed" when he picked up no trophies.

Even his braggadocio style may mask his insecurities. "I'm scared of getting 10 nominations and losing. It's happened before," he said after helping announce the Grammy nominees at the Music Box Theatre in Hollywood.

Ray in the race

West also was apologetic and regretful over the way he reacted at the AMAs last month. "I should have accepted that more gracefully. I'm really ashamed of the way I reacted to that situation."

Half of West's 10 nominations were in the rap field, including best rap album. He competes against himself in the best rap-sung collaboration with the songs "Slow Jamz," performed along with Twista and actor-singer Jamie Foxx, and "All Falls Down," which he performed with Syleena Johnson.

The eight respective nominations for Usher and Keys, who collaborated on the hit "My Boo," included album of the year for Keys' "The Diary of Alicia Keys" and Usher's "Confessions." *AP*

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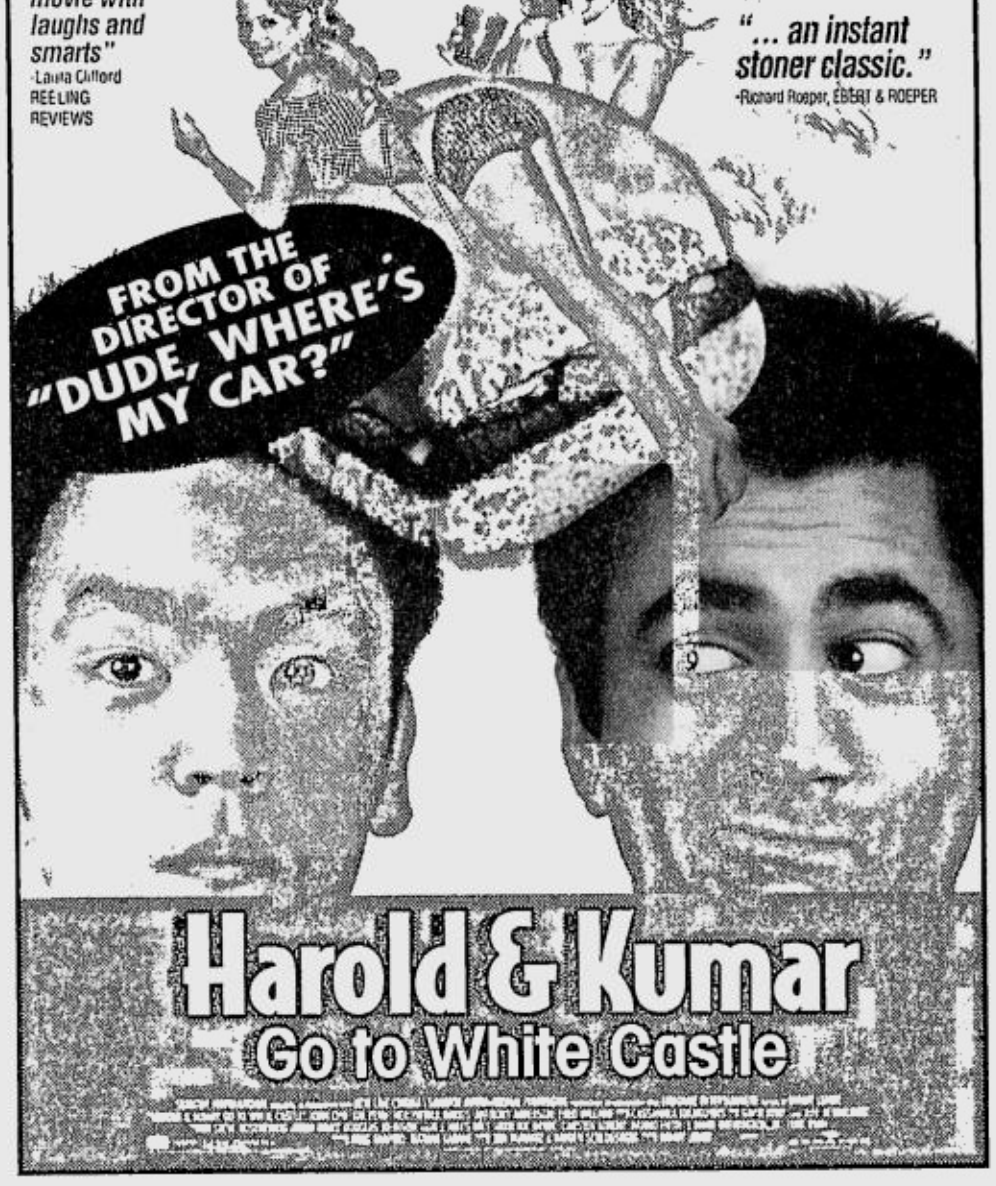

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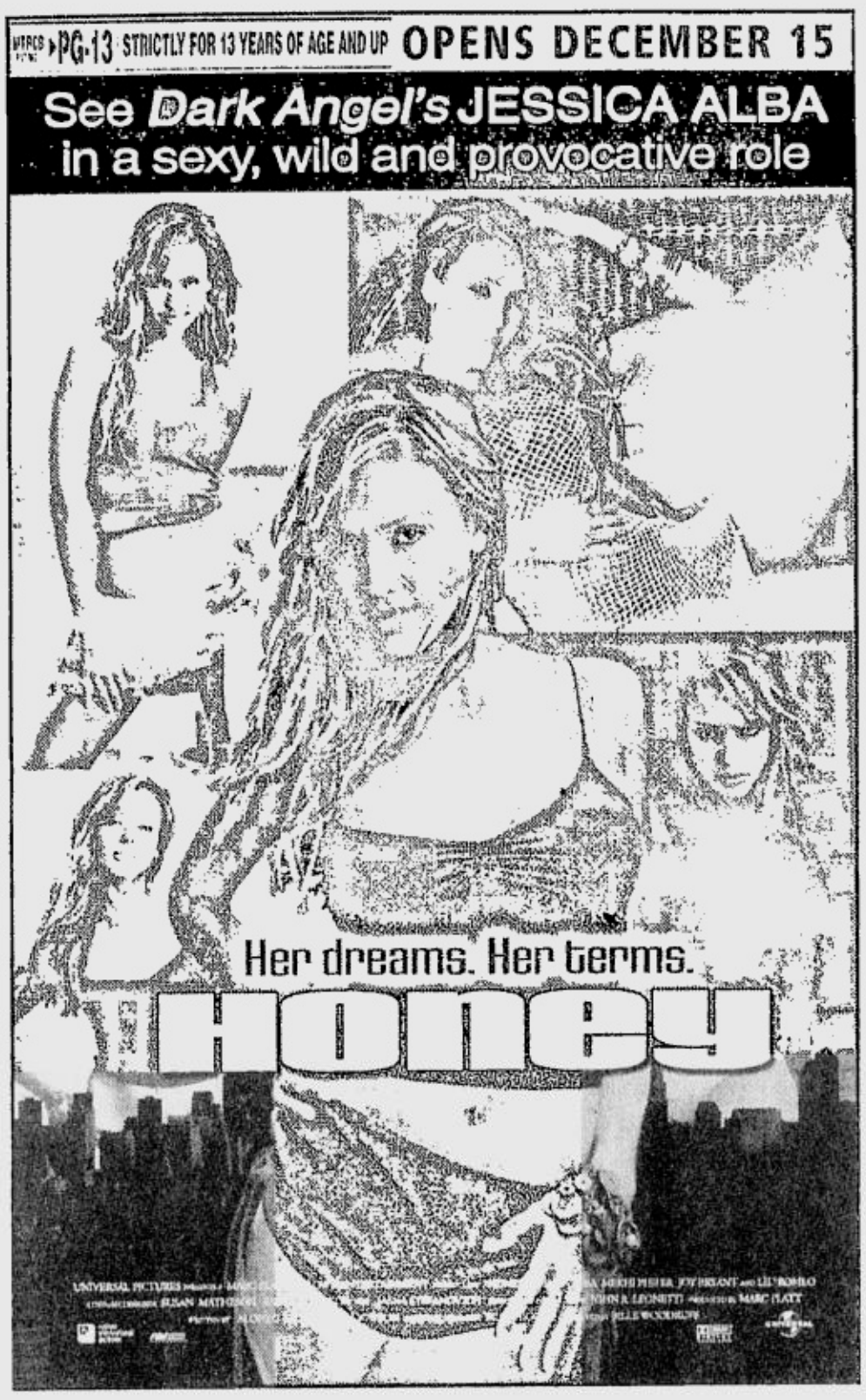


ENTERTAINMENT

H'wood's most powerful and highest paid women

JULIA Roberts, highest paid

LOS ANGELES—Walt Disney Company's Anne Sweeney was named Hollywood's most powerful woman on Tuesday, thanks in part to a few "Desperate Housewives."

Sweeney surged to No. 1 from 17 last year on the Hollywood Reporter's "Women in Entertainment Power 100" list due mainly to her promotion in April to co-chair of Disney Media Networks and president of Disney-ABC Television Group, which is staging a comeback with hits like "Desperate Housewives" and "Lost."

"Anne Sweeney has a bigger job than any other woman working in television today. She's taken the broadcast world by storm, supervising an almost unbelievable turnaround for the ABC network in a mere eight months," said Christy Grosz, executive editor of the Hollywood Reporter's special Power 100 issue.

Sweeney did not develop or approve the two shows, but analysts said her team's aggressive marketing efforts had made them successes.

Following Sweeney on the list was last year's top-ranked female executive, Amy Pascal, vice chair and Motion Picture Group chair for Sony Corp.'s Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Ranking third was Nancy Tellem, president of Viacom Inc.'s CBS Paramount Network Television Entertainment Group, followed by Judy McGrath, chair of Viacom's MTV Networks, No. 4, and Stacey Snider, chair of Universal Pictures at No. 5.

ANNE Sweeney, most powerful

CAMERON Diaz and Nicole Kidman, runners up to Pretty Woman

Roberts highest paid

The magazine also ranked the highest-paid actresses, led by Julia Roberts, who gets $20 million a film, followed by Cameron Diaz, Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Drew Barrymore, Halle Berry, Sandra Bullock and Angelina Jolie.

Down toward the bottom of the top 10, Renee Zellweger, who gets $12 million per film, moved up to 9 from 10, switching places with Jennifer Lopez, who moved down a notch.

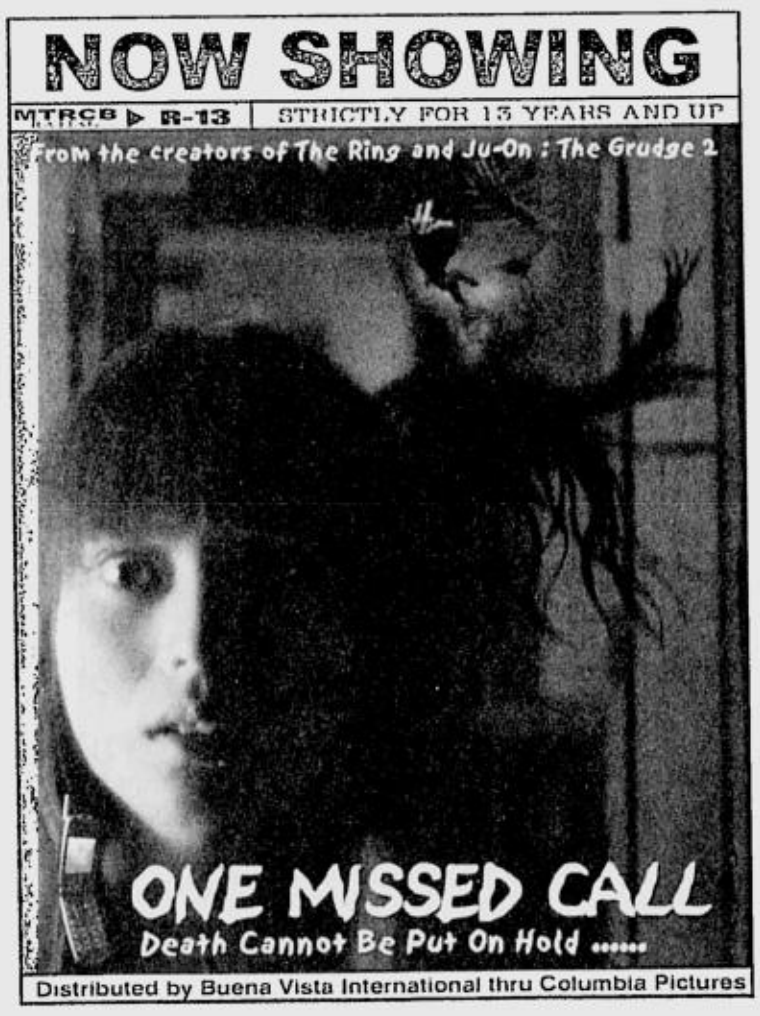
At a breakfast that featured a keynote speech by actress Annette Bening, Sherry Lansing was given the inaugural Sherry Lansing Leadership Award created to honor her groundbreaking achievements and significant contributions to the entertainment industry.

Lansing, credited with shattering Hollywood's glass ceiling by becoming the first woman to head production at a major studio, said in November she was stepping down as chair of Paramount Pictures next year.

Lansing ranked seventh on the list this year after topping the list in previous years. *Reuters*

DID YOU KNOW...

Peque Gallaga and **Joey Reyes**, director and writer respectively of "Oro Plata Mata," will collaborate again after about 20 years in a project for **Tony Gloria** of Unitel Pictures. The movie will be a local version of "King Lear" and will be shot next year, according to Reyes, who's now a top filmmaker himself.



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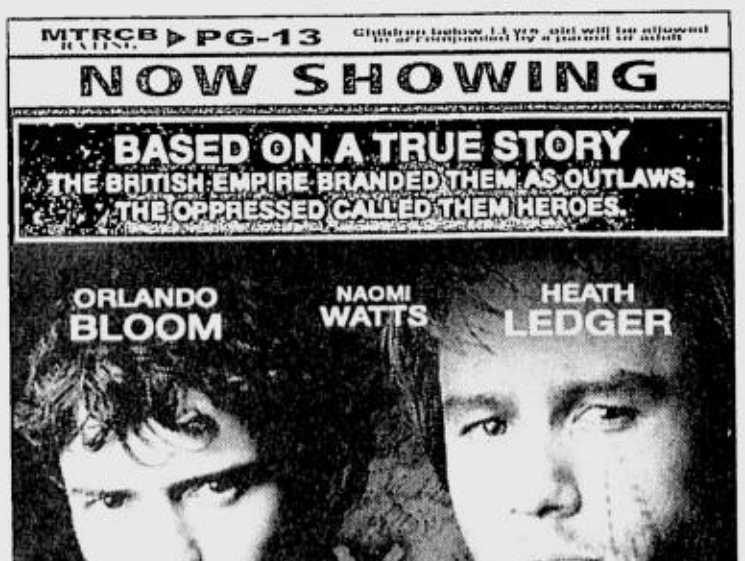
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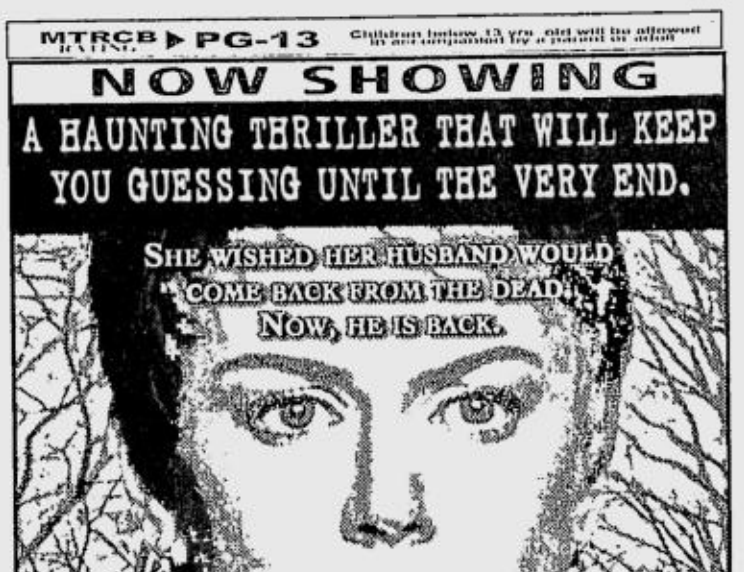

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Sa tibay, hindi basta-basta bumibigay.

Fiscal reforms fail to impress World Bank

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD Bank has urged the Arroyo administration to concentrate on pushing for "quality" fiscal reform measures, saying that rushing the passage of cheaper but less contentious measures would not help the country get out of its fiscal mess.

According to World Bank Country Director Joachim von Amsberg, the government's economic team should not allow threats of a credit-rating downgrade compromise the Arroyo administration's revenue-raising measures.

Economic officials are moving to hasten the passage of the Arroyo administration's proposed fiscal reform bills, at times by drafting less debatable versions, following warnings that the country's credit rating would be downgraded if none of the measures would be passed within the year.

Ratings firm Moody's International Service earlier warned that the Philippines could have its credit rating downgraded if no measure was passed within the year. Visiting representatives of Moody's finished this week their review of the Philippines' fiscal situation and economic policies, and are expected to issue a decision on the country's credit rating by February.

"The government should focus on the big picture. It should look beyond warnings by rating agencies, and concentrate on what needs to be done to bring back investor confidence," Amsberg said in an interview after Tuesday night's signing of the World Bank-administered $200,000 grant for SARS prevention at the Department of Finance.

Earlier, the DOF revised its original proposal of the sin taxes bill and is now pushing for a watered-down version, after realizing that the original plan will have a difficult time breezing through Congress because of intense lobbying against it by cigarette makers.

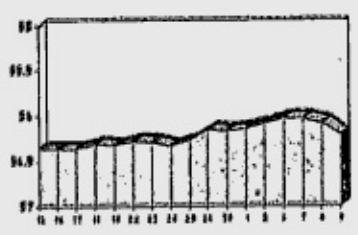
The economic team was initially looking at P14 billion in additional annual revenue from the original sin tax proposal, which seeks a 30.1-percent increase in tax rates in the first year of the law's implementation. But the latest DOF proposal seeks only a 12-percent and 40-centavo in-

FISCAL/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.21 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 9, 2004

¥ 104.00 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 9, 2004

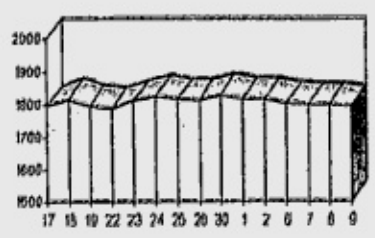
GOLD: $441.00-441.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 9, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down

SHARES yesterday slipped led by number two phone firm Globe Telecom after a newspaper reported that Moody's ratings agency was considering cutting the country's rating by two notches in February.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

The US-based ratings agency last month put Philippine sovereign debt—already two notches below investment grade—on notice for a ratings cut.

It also put Globe, top phone firm PLDT and 11 of the country's major banks on review for a downgrade.

Globe, which is jointly owned by conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications, fell 2.07 percent or P20 to P945, dragging the main index 7.5 points or 0.42 percent lower to 1,793.68 points.

Its chief rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which is a quarter-owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., dropped P5 to P1,270.

"Since Globe and PLDT was specifically mentioned as those that would be adversely affected by Moody's cut, they were sold down," said AB Capital Jose Vistan.

Moody's cut the Philippines' long-term currency rating to Ba2 from Ba1 in January and maintained its negative outlook.

On Tuesday, London-based ratings agency Fitch cut its outlook on Philippine sovereign debt to negative from stable, bringing it into line with Moody's rating. *Reuters*

Vehicle sales dip 5%; Toyota keeps lead

By Ronnel W. Domingo

VEHICLE sales dipped for the first time this year by 5 percent in the first 11 months mainly due to a delay in shipments of stock, particularly of passenger cars.

Industry sales from January to November reached 79,869 units compared to 84,290 in the same period last year.

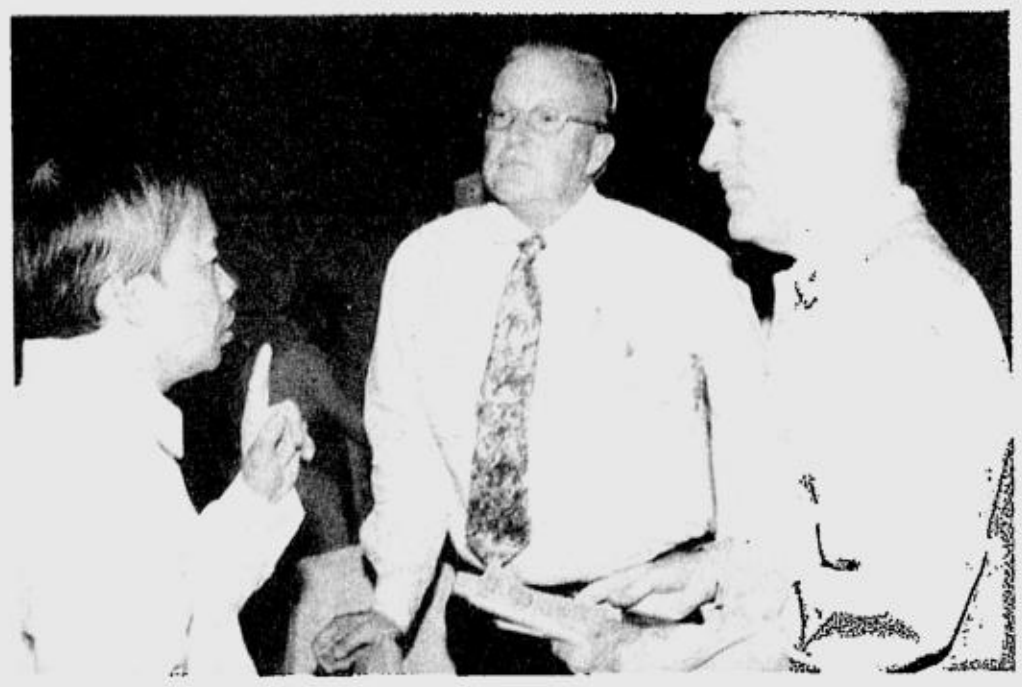
In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said a 12-percent decline in car sales for November as against that for October pushed down total sales.

A total of 2,756 cars were sold last month against 3,133 units in October.

So far, all units sold accounted for 91 percent of the 87,600 sales forecast for 2004. Local assemblers need to sell a total of 7,741 units in December to meet the target.

Campi and TMA originally hoped to sell 100,000 units this year but revised the number, citing the unfavorable economic situation

VEHICLE/ B5



FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION
Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo (left) asks leaders of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, led by executive director Robert Sears (right), to help the government fight corruption by making their members serve as monitors and volunteers who will help entrap and expose corrupt officials. Marcelo was the chamber's guest in its monthly regular meeting. With Marcelo and Sears is Baron Buck of American Security Systems International.

'Botika' program kicks off

THE GOVERNMENT is starting next week an aggressive program meant to provide the public basic essential drugs, according to the Philippine International Trading Corp.

PITC chair and executive officer Roberto Pagdanganan said in a briefing yesterday that the medicines would be sold at five to six times lower than prevailing market rates through the "Botika ng Bayan" program.

Pagdanganan said the program was aimed at reducing the cost of medicines commonly bought by the poor by half of their 2004 prices within six years.

Through the Botika project, a network of privately-run drug stores would be set up to provide products guaranteed by the Department of Health and the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

"Each outlet must be accredited by the PITC and DOH/BFAD," the official said. "Supplies would be bought from drug firms operating here and abroad."

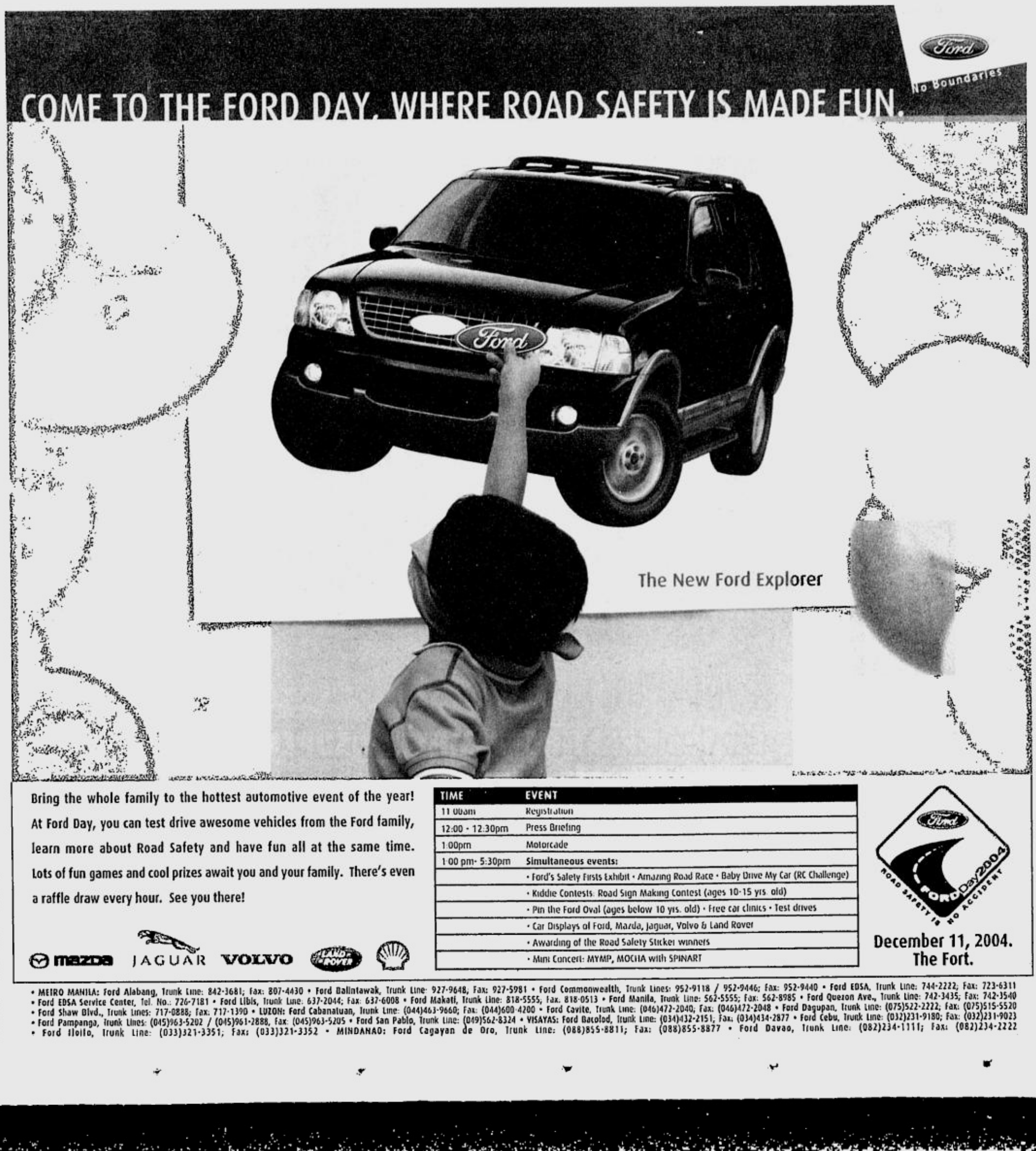
The first Botika outlet will be inaugurated next week at the PITC head office along Tordesillas Street in Salcedo Village, Makati City.

More outlets will be opened initially in other parts of Metro Manila.

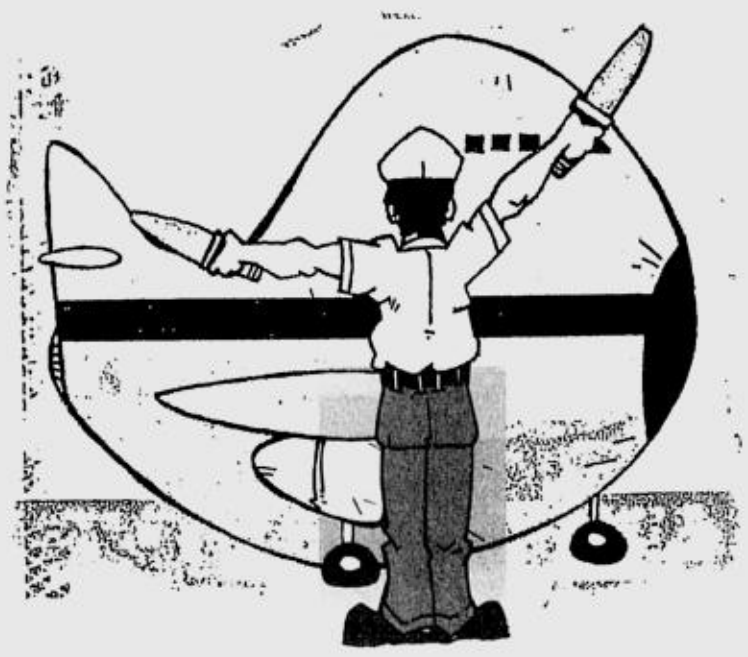
"Around 300 outlets would be established in nearby key cities and towns," Pagdanganan said.

As for the pricing scheme, he explained

BOTIKA/ B5



PAL claims to be on schedule 90% of the time



By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Airlines, the flag carrier once notorious for its flight delays, now claims that its flights are on schedule 90 to 95 percent of the time.

"We are hitting our target of flying on schedule 90 percent of the time for international flights, and 95 percent on domestic flights," PAL president Jaime Bautista said. "Our numbers have been improving in the last three months."

Cebu Air Pacific of the Gokongwei Group was the first local airline to claim a 95 percent on-time performance. Cebu Pacific officials said the company had sustained its record.

PAL reported a net profit of P1.44 billion in the first half of operations starting April 2004 against a net loss of P1.09 billion a year ago. Of the amount, P204.13 million came during the July to September period against a net loss of P383.79 million last year.

The flag carrier had started forging new fleet leases. A 156-seater Airbus A-320 arrived on Dec. 1 and another one is expected in the middle of the month.

For most part of the year, PAL's on-time performance had been slightly below the standard of 85 percent on overseas flights and 90 percent on local flights. Bautista admitted that PAL used to rate poorly in this area compared to its closest rival Cebu Pacific.

To help improve its flight schedule, PAL started reducing the turnaround time in the provinces from one hour to between 30 and 45 minutes so the planes could come back earlier to Manila for the service checks and maintenance.

PAL also reviewed flight schedules to improve the utilization of its planes. The PAL chief said the company wanted to use each aircraft for more than seven hours a day.

Bautista focused on improving the schedule as soon as he was appointed to head PAL in late August.

He said that, in the past, PAL would always start the day with on-time flights. A delayed flight in the middle of the day would create a domino effect on later flights.

He said PAL was now focusing on improving service to customers, increasing productivity and enhancing efficiency.

"We owe it to our customers to improve our service," said Bautista. "Customer service is now the priority of PAL and we are talking about end-to-end, from ticketing to delivering the passengers and cargo to their destination."

But to improve efficiency, Bautista said PAL must first get out of rehabilitation so it would have more flexibility to improve operations.

PAL had said creditors must allow it to get out of rehabilitation ahead of schedule so it could consider borrowing funds for expansion. The company's 10-year rehabilitation started in 1999.

Asia's oldest airline, was forced to go into rehabilitation in 1999 following crippling labor problems and failure to settle debts totaling $2.2 billion. The rehabilitation called for the infusion of $200 million in fresh equity which its owner Lucio Tan provided.

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Automatic Centre, the country's pioneer one-stop shop appliance chain, recently opened a new store at the latest shopper's destination in Metro Manila – Ayala Market! Market!

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Automatic Centre Market! Market! is the latest lifestyle store in this shopping haven that offers high quality appliances at guaranteed low prices, as well as world-class furniture pieces to spruce up your home.

Zobels' Christmas cash-out

IT COULD be their growing families, coming exotic holiday trips, longer Yuletide gift list or a combination of all, but the Zobel zillionaires have been cashing out their stock options in their own corporations to raise a little cash for themselves this Christmas.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, for instance, sold 176,611 shares of Ayala Land Inc. at P7.10 per share late last month, exactly 11 days after acquiring 153,611 ALI stocks at P5.69 each through the employee stock option plan.

That represents nearly a 25-percent profit in less than two weeks' wait.

His brother Fernando was an even more aggressive seller.

Since last month, the ALI chair has sold 2.297 million shares at P7.10-P7.30 range, after acquiring more than 1.33 million of company shares at P4 and P4.41/share only last Nov. 12, also through the company's stock option plan.

Those series of transactions should translate to more than P16 million in holiday ho-ho-hos.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ond-hand car sales business and plans to convert the Bicutan assembly plant for that purpose.

In addition, the Japanese automotive company plans to open a company-owned and -operated dealer-showroom, also in the Bicutan property.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

Squeezing Cuisia

IT LOOKS like the ailing mother- and father-in-law of former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia are being used as battering rams by their siblings to obtain more withdrawals from the family granary.

According to the pro-Cuisia grapevine, three of the siblings are living off the parents' money, which has long been administered by their *ate*, who happens to be Cuisia's wife. One of the siblings is even in a worse domestic predicament, separated from the conjugal partner now languishing in jail for a drug offense.

The other, a widower with four kids, has shacked up with a girl friend young enough to be mistaken for his daughter.

On the plus side, the Cuisia couple has the support of the youngest son, a US-based businessman and the children of the deceased half-brother of Cuisia's father-in-law.

Cuisia's in-laws are both 85 and, according to their own statement, "confined to wheelchairs."

The poor old man has been diagnosed with hepatic encephalopathy, sclerosis and chronic renal failure, while his wife has been stricken with severe diabetes and suffers from occasional memory loss.

Which should raise the question, who exactly prepared their joint complaint-affidavit?

Congressional courtesies

- THE family of former Misamis Oriental congressman, now Gov. Oscar Moreno, is asking if the governor would spend the Yuletide holidays with them in Manila or would he remain holed up in his Pryce Hotel suite in Cagayan de Oro.
- THE office of Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla says it is Remulla's elder brother, Jesus Crispin, also a Cavite congressman, who is a member of the House committee on banks and financial institutions and who attended Tuesday's hearing on the liquidity problem of pre-need pioneer College Assurance Plan.

Heard through the grapevine

TOYOTA is venturing into the vibrant sec-

PNOC-EDC sells shares to buy Napocor assets

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Company Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) will be floating 6 billion shares for private placement to help it raise enough cash to bid for the National Power Corp.'s geothermal assets to be placed on the auction block in August next year.

PNOC-EDC president Paul Aquino explained that the government-owned firm would follow the privatization model of Petron Corp., where the government retained a 40-percent stake in the oil firm, while giving up 40 percent to Saudi Aramco and 20 percent to the public.

The government, through PNOC-EDC parent firm PNOC, held 10 billion shares in PNOC-EDC. The PNOC board recently granted PNOC-EDC the authority to boost the existing shares to 15 billion through the issuance of 5 billion new shares. PNOC would also be selling 4 billion of its existing shares.

Combining the 5 billion new shares with the 4 billion old shares to be sold, Aquino said there would be 9 billion shares that would be made available to private entities and to the public.

Of the 9 billion, 6 billion, or 40 percent of the total 15 billion PNOC-EDC shares, would be sold via private placement.

According to PNOC-EDC estimates, the net value of the company's existing contract is around P3.50 per share, using a discount rate of 19 percent. At a discount rate of 11 percent, the shares' net present value would go up to P6.60 per share.

Aquino said a committee would focus on the private placement first as this would raise the needed cash to enable the firm to bid for Napocor's 150-megawatt (MW) Bacon-Manito (BacMan) geothermal asset in August.

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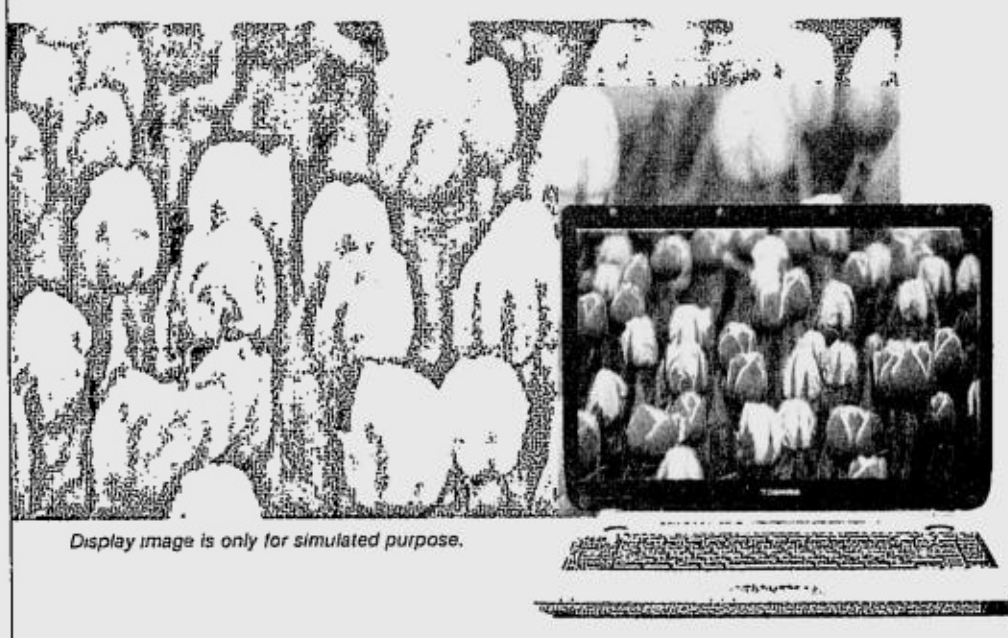

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Satellite M30 Special Edition

Model No: PSM33L-002002

Integrated audio and video inputs allow direct connectivity to gaming consoles, camcorders and a wide variety of Audio Visual devices.

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.70GHz, Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG Network Connection, Intel® 855GM Chipset
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- 512MB DDR SDRAM/60GB HDD with shock absorber
- High-quality Video Engine delivers high-definition images with brighter colors, higher contrast and smoother motion
- Super Bright 15.4" (39.1cm) WXGA TFT display with Clear SuperView technology
- Toshiba Express Media Player allows quick play startup of DVD and CD
- NVIDIA® GeForce™ FX Go5200 with 64MB Video RAM
- Super Multi Drive with CD/DVD burner
- SRS WOW and TruSurround XT™ sound technology with internal harman/kardon® stereo speakers
- SD slot, 4 x USB 2.0, i.LINK (IEEE1394), and TV-out ports
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

P149,990

Satellite A60-S535

Model No: PSA60L-005003

Clear SuperView display technology.

- Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor supporting HT Technology 2.80GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
- 256MB DDR SDRAM/40GB HDD
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
- 15.0" (38.1cm) XGA TFT display
- ATI MOBILITY™ RADEON™ 7000 IGP with up to 64MB shared Video RAM
- SRS TruSurround XT™ sound technology with internal stereo speakers
- 3 x USB 2.0, i.LINK (IEEE1394), S-video TV-out and Fast IntraRed port
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

P89,990

Satellite A50-S530G

Model No: PSA50L-03400Z

Clear SuperView display technology.

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology Intel® Pentium® M Processor 715 (1.50GHz, 2MB Cache, 400MHz FSB) Intel® PRO/Wireless Network Connection 802.11g
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
- 15.0" (38.1cm) XGA TFT display
- Metallic silver chassis at 2.8kg
- 256MB DDR SDRAM/30GB HDD with shock absorber
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
- 2 x USB 2.0, i.LINK (IEEE1394)
- Up to 7.6 hours with optional 12-cell hi-cap battery (up to 4.0 hours battery life with standard battery)
- SRS TruSurround XT™ sound technology with internal stereo speakers
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

P84,990

Satellite A50-S535G

Model No: PSA50L-013002

Clear SuperView display technology.

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.60GHz, Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG Network Connection, Intel® 855GM Chipset
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
- 15.0" (38.1cm) XGA TFT display
- Metallic silver chassis at 2.8kg
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
- 2 x USB 2.0, i.LINK (IEEE1394)
- Up to 7.6 hours with optional 12-cell hi-cap battery (up to 4.0 hours battery life with standard battery)
- SRS TruSurround XT™ sound technology with internal stereo speakers
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

P99,990

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Banco de Oro raises loan exposure in Meralco

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, the banking arm of mall magnate Henry Sy, bought from other creditor banks at least P200 million worth of Manila Electric Co.'s loans.

Banking sources said BDO was bullish on the long-term prospects of Meralco, which recently finalized a $288-million debt restructuring deal with its creditors.

At least four creditor banks, that did not want to participate in the deal, sold out their exposure to BDO.

BDO, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Equitable PCI Bank are Meralco's biggest local creditors.

The utility firm earlier signed an agreement with 30 domestic and foreign commercial banks for the refinancing of its $288 million worth of obligations falling-due in the next 24 months.

The seven-year, dual-tranche facility is denominated in both the US dollar and peso. It will mature in 2011.

A banker said the restructuring would improve Meralco's cash flow. As such, the banker said the utility firm was now in better position to address about P17 billion worth of refunds to consumers ordered by the Supreme Court.

The foreign bank with the biggest loan exposure to Meralco was Citibank, which was tapped to arrange the debt restructuring deal along with BPI.

Under the restructuring deal, Meralco creditors will share in the mortgage trust indenture. For peso loans, the rate was 4 percentage points over the "passed on" rate by the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines. DBP provided the wholesale lending facility to Meralco's creditors.

Earlier, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said it had given its "CC" long-term corporate credit rating on Meralco with positive implications, after the company finalized an agreement to extend the maturities of its debts. It said the rating might be raised by several notches if the company succeeded in restructuring its debt maturity profile.

Meralco delivers electricity to more than four million customers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. The firm is 23-percent owned by a venture of Spain's Union Fenosa and the Lopez family's First Philippine Holdings Corp.

Bacnotan buys out partners in Atlas

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BACNOTAN Consolidated Industries Inc., the flagship company of the Phinma Group, is set to acquire the 37 percent share of a Danish group in subsidiary Atlas Cement Corp., raising its interest in the company to 90 percent.

BCII yesterday said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its board approved the purchase of ACC shares held by FLS Industries, Denmark's largest cement equipment maker (27 percent) and Denmark's development fund, The Industrialization Fund for Developing Countries (9.8 percent).

BCII said it would buy the additional equity in ACC for roughly P260 million, which would increase its stake from 53 percent to 90 percent. The rest is held by Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.

The BCII board also approved the change in ACC's primary purpose from a cement manufacturing company into a holding company. The corporate name will be changed to Atlas Holdings Corp.

BCII treasurer Roberto Lavinia said BCII's Danish partners decided to sell their shares in ACC since BCII was getting out of the cement industry.

BCII earlier sold its 21.3 percent stake in Union Cement Holdings Corp. to Cemco Holdings Inc. of the Holderfin Group. The sale brought in $214 million in proceeds.

BCII instead decided to concentrate on the services sector, primarily on education, power, housing and financial services.

BCII has acquired 80 percent of Arroyo University in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, and is in talks to acquire a substantial stake in a medium-rise, low-cost housing company.

It may also study going into the healthcare business, the company official said.

BCII was founded by a group of industrialists led by the Escaler family in 1957 and was involved in the production, distribution and sale of clinker, cement and concrete products.

It also has an interest in the paper and packaging industry and has ventured into property development and the manufacturing of reinforced steel bars.

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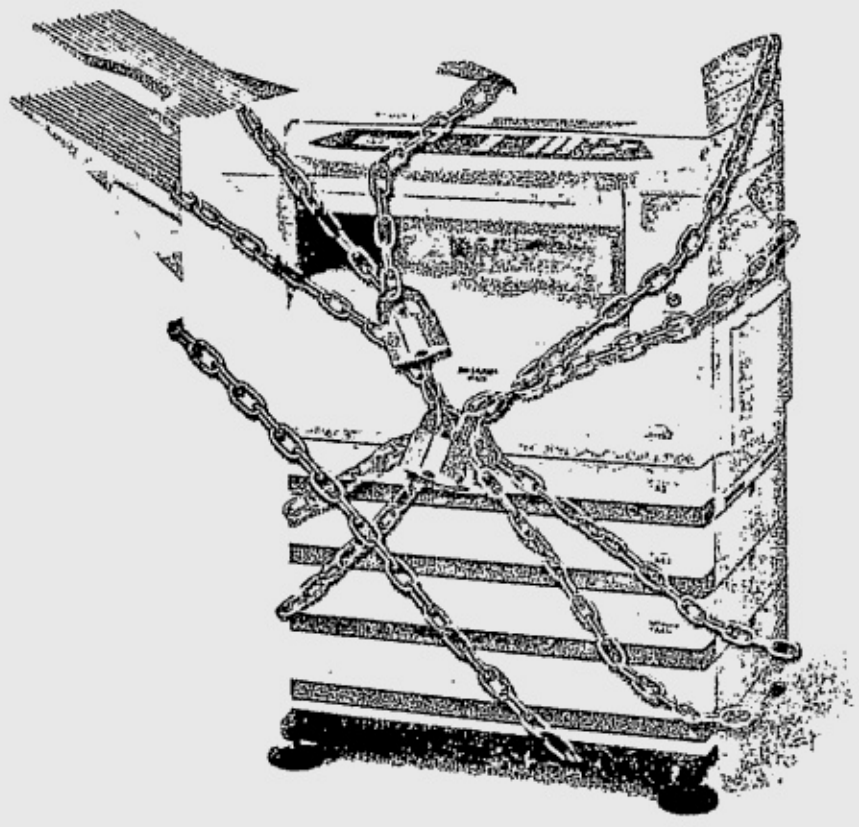

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 9, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	24.5	24.75	24.25	24.75	1,956,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	52	51.5	52	719,100
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49	48.5	49	1,103,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	320,000
International Exch. Bank	17	17	16.75	16.75	343,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	27.5	28	90,000
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	2,000
Philippine National Bank	23	23.25	23	23.25	13,200
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	1,100
Security Bank Corp.	29	30.5	29	30.5	67,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	41,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2500	2510	2500	2510	730
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1810	1820	1810	1820	770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	35,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.82	9,343,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	960	960	945	945	34,940
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.75	252,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	1,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.48	2.5	1,387,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	20,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	35,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1285	1285	1270	1270	197,280
Ivantage Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.72	0.72	2,660,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.25	83,100
Manila Electric Co. B	26.5	27	26	26.5	436,900
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	3,465,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.05	1.06	1,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	9,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	380,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.1	988,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	900,000
Union Cement Corp.	2	2	1.98	2	1,209,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	40,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32.5	32	32.5	763,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	29	188,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	8,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57	56.5	57	26,600
San Miguel Corp. B	75	75.5	75	75.5	44,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	85,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	1,160,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	3,144,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	77,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.71	0.72	19,710,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.14	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.9	2,432,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.95	5	1,100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	32	32	31.5	32	734,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.0575	1,100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	137,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3	2,190,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.66	1.68	775,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	1,563,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	23,870,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.04	50,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	15,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	290,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	146,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.64	8,320,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.91	0.93	1,150,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.6	0.6	1,200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	290,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series I	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	22,591,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	1,620,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.08	14,553,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	600,000
Rl-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	1,550,000
Primex Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	112,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	20,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.215	0.23	0.215	0.22	2,960,000
SM Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.38	600,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	4,727,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.38	0.38	0.33	0.35	890,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	6,800,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	60,000
Benguet Corp. A	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	224,000
Benguet Corp. B	6	6	6	6	2,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3	3.1	3	3	35,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	18,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.38	0.39	0.36	0.38	64,440,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.018	0.018	246,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.027	512,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.0048	0.0048	513,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.6	0.6	0.54	0.54	9,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.67	0.67	0.62	0.63	4,900,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	21,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	65,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	92,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	290,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	7,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.46	2.5	61,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	900,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	4,669,400	155,096,550.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	260,846,920	477,724,680.00
PRO	50,493,000	207,808,720.00
Mining	1,376,302,000	59,398,400.00
OIL	186,291,000	1,180,080.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,878,602,320	901,208,430.00
Bank & Fin Svc	544.55	UP 1.04
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,777.79	DOWN 11.51
PRO	653.86	DOWN 3.79
Mining	2,519.82	DOWN 184.32
OIL	1.90	UP 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,151.60	UP 9.72
Composite	1,793.68	DOWN 7.50

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 43; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 49; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112, NO. OF TRADES: 2,691

DISCLOSURES

FILINVEST Development Corp. announced the appointment of the following: Jonathan Gotianun, chair; Josephine Yap, president; Nelson Bona, treasurer; Abner Gener Jr., secretary, compliance officer and corporate information officer and Apollo Escarez, alternate CIO.

* * *

ATLAS Holdings Corp. Is the new name of Atlas Cement Corp.

* * *

ROXAS Holdings Inc. elected Pedro Roxas as chair and CEO, and Miguel Gaspar as president and COO. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

December 9, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.749288	1.000000	56.0380
Japan	Yen	0.007204	0.009615	0.5388
United Kingdom	Pound	1.449423	1.934400	108.3999
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096433	0.128700	7.2121
Switzerland	Franc	0.652747	0.871156	48.8178
Canada	Dollar	0.617105	0.823588	46.1522
Singapore	Dollar	0.455550	0.607977	34.0698
Australia	Dollar	0.565501	0.754717	42.2928
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.987608	2.652661	148.6498
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.199805	0.266660	14.9431
Brunei	Dollar	0.454169	0.606134	33.9665
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000109	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.018984	0.025336	1.4198
UAE	Dirham	0.204032	0.272301	15.2592
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.334600	74.7883
Argentina	Peso	0.251946	0.336247	18.8426
Brazil	Real	0.271678	0.362582	20.3184
Denmark	Kroner	0.134599	0.179636	10.0664
India	Rupee	0.017061	0.022769	1.2759
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.197207	0.263193	14.7488
Mexico	New Peso	0.066687	0.089000	4.9874
New Zealand	Dollar	0.528337	0.705119	39.5135
Norway	Kroner	0.121824	0.162586	9.1110
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012635	0.016863	0.9450
South Africa	Rand	0.127684	0.170407	9.5493
Korea	Won	0.000708	0.000945	0.0530
Swedan	Kroner	0.111390	0.148661	8.3307
Syria	Pound	0.014434	0.019264	1.0795
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023328	0.031133	1.7446
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000391	0.000522	0.0293

ATI to raise P1B via notes issuance

ASIAN Terminals Inc. is issuing P1 billion in fixed and floating-rate peso-denominated notes to raise funds for its modernization and expansion program.

ATI yesterday signed an agreement with Standard Chartered Bank—the arranger, facility agent, registrar, investor and paying agent—for the issuance of the notes which will have maturities of five and 10 years. Investors also included Banco de Oro Trust, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) and Sunlife of Canada.

The proceeds of the notes issue will be used for the ongoing capital expenditure program of ATI, that covers the South Harbor Development Program. Portion of the proceeds will be used to refinance maturing obligations. The South Harbor Development Program includes the modernization and capacity building of the facilities for international container and general cargo handling.

The agreement was signed by ATI chair Richard D. Barclay and president/CEO Jerry Rickcord.

"This [the agreement] is, indeed, a resounding vote of confidence and staunch support on the strength, competence and integrity of ATI. More importantly, it is your affirmation of commitment to the continuing growth of Philippine business and the capital markets," Barclay said in a statement.

Gov't plans to consolidate two VAT-related proposals

By Michelle V. Remo

ECONOMIC officials are considering consolidating into one bill two proposals that aim to raise the government's value-added tax collections—increasing the VAT rate to 12 percent and the lifting of VAT exemptions.

An official of the Department of Finance said the country's economic managers were studying whether it would be more practical to adopt a consolidated bill than push for two VAT-related bills, considering the slow progress of the fiscal reform bills in Congress.

With only one consolidated bill, Congress will need less time to deliberate on the proposal, said the finance official who requested anonymity.

"There will be bigger and better perspective in efforts to reform the country's VAT system if the proposals are consolidated," the official said.

The executive branch is pushing for a reform in the country's VAT system, in the belief that the move will raise substantial additional revenue for the government.

Initial government estimates show that increasing the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent will result in P34 billion in additional revenue a year. The proposal to lift VAT exemptions enjoyed by certain sectors was estimated to yield another P10 billion a year.

However, the VAT proposals of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic officials are expected to face rough sailing in Congress because of strong lobbying against them by affected taxpayers.

Oil companies for instance warned that the lifting of their VAT exemption would force them to pass on the tax to consumers, who are already burdened by accelerating commodities' prices. The companies said gasoline prices would soar to over P30 per liter if the VAT exemption was lifted. Pilipinas Shell said imposing a 10-percent VAT on fuel would raise its price by P3.60 per liter.

"Aside from oil companies, cooperatives are also making some noise against the plan to impose VAT on them," the DOF official said.

Cooperatives, which are currently exempted from VAT, have submitted a position paper in Congress criticizing the plan to lift their VAT exemption.

But the finance department said the planned lifting VAT exemptions was one of the government's priorities in addressing the problem of poor revenue collection. The DOF said exemptions distort the VAT system, which should have a wide base of taxpayers to efficiently check the tax chain.

Fiscal . . .

From page B1

crease in the first year.

Amsberg said the DOF should stick to its plan of raising P80 billion in additional revenue a year from all of its revenue-raising measures, which include higher taxes and fewer fiscal incentives. He said compromising the amount because of opposition from affected sectors would negatively impact on the already strained perception of the Philippines by foreign investors.

"P80 billion is a good yardstick. The government should follow up on the implementation of programs that were laid out earlier," he said.

The Arroyo administration earlier came out with eight revenue-raising measures intended to solve the country's fiscal problem, characterized by the government's huge budget deficit and burgeoning debt.

The measures include the rationalization of fiscal incentives, an increase in petroleum taxes, a higher value-added tax rate, lateral attrition for revenue-collecting agencies, a tax amnesty, a simplified net income tax, an increase in sin taxes, and a franchise tax on telecommunication companies.

Amsberg suggested that the executive aggressively push for a higher VAT rate because it was one of the measures that could generate substantial revenue for the government. He said a VAT increase was an ideal fiscal reform measure because the tax was equitable as it was not imposed only on a single industry.

'Botika' . . .

From page B1

that the PITC would enforce a maximum retail price policy for all Botika outlets.

At the same time, he said the facade of outlets would bear the "Botika ng Bayan" seal as well as the "Gamot na Mabisa at Abot-Kaya" mark as a trade mark of guaranteed quality and affordable prices.

In an earlier interview, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the trade department would keep on importing cheaper medicines from India but that it was taking further steps to screen against counterfeits.

Purisima said the government has been successful in its efforts to bring in cheaper branded medicine and provide healthy competition to private drug companies.

The official said the government would likely stop buying drugs from India only if local manufacturers could offer the same quality and low price for the drugs.

Further, the PITC last September signed with China's Biomedical Engineering Center of the Hebei Medical University a memorandum of understanding on a $25-million revolving credit facility for medicine and hospital supplies.

Under the MOU, state-owned Heibei Medical committed to supply PITC with quality drugs from China.

Vehicle sales . . .

From page B1

and the influx of imported used vehicles.

Last month, the groups said they were optimistic of reaching the target considering the intensive sales, rallies, fleet sales and seasonal demand for the remainder of the year.

In the first 11 months, sales of passenger cars went up 45 percent to 30,129 units from 20,780 in the year-ago period.

Sales of commercial vehicles—Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks, and trucks and buses—went down 22 percent to 49,740 units from 63,434 units.

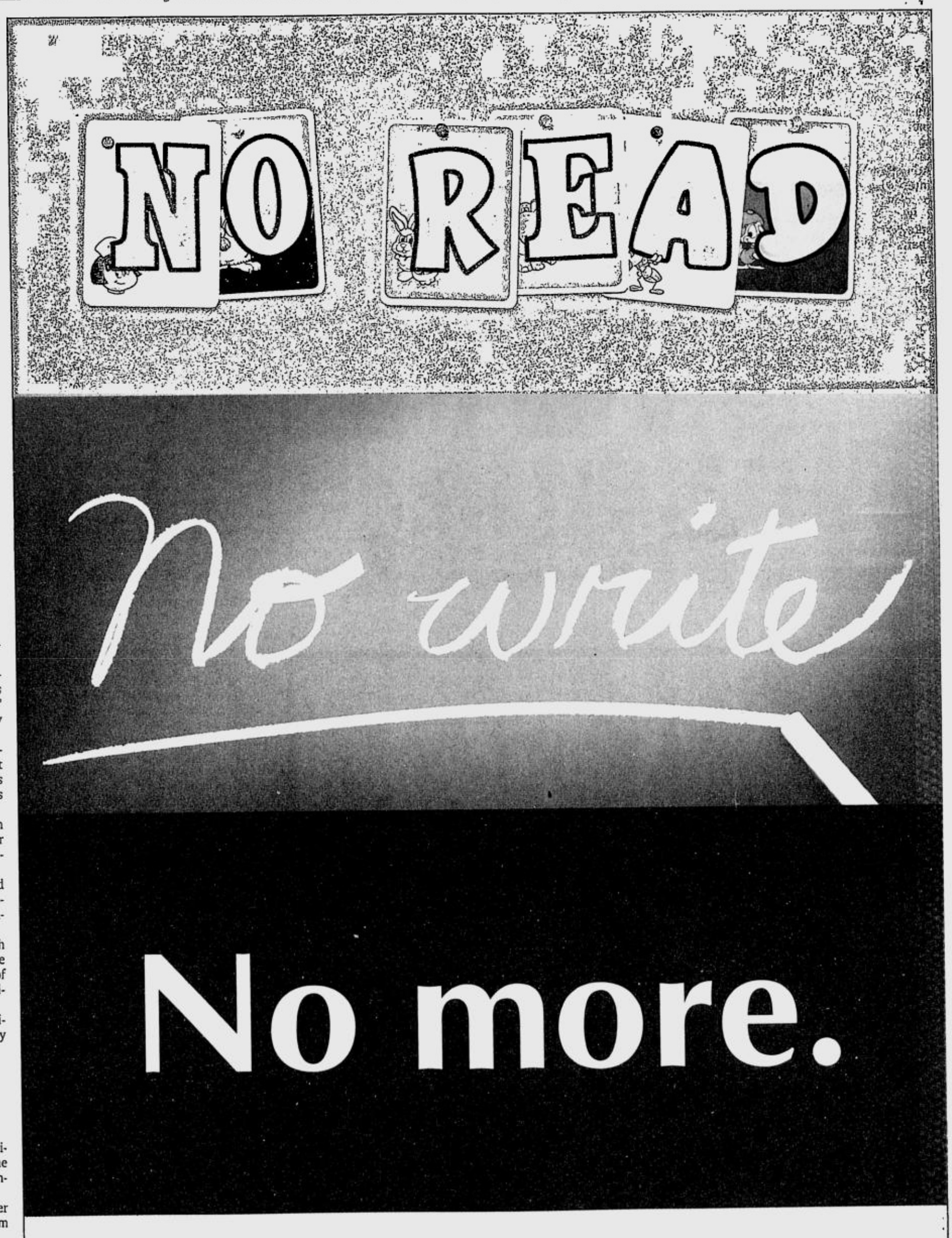
From January to November, sales of AUVs went down by 45 percent and of light trucks by 43 percent. Sales of LCVs grew by 18 percent and of trucks and buses by 4 percent.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with 33.6 percent of the market. It sold 26,802 units in the first 11 months, up by 6 percent from a year ago.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. maintained second place with 14.5 percent of the market, selling 11,575 units. But this represented a 16.9-percent decline in sales in the same period in 2003.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. came in third with 12 percent of the market. It sold 9,657 units from January to November, a decline of 31 percent from the year-ago period.

In the passenger car segment, Toyota grabbed 46.4 percent of the market; Honda had 22.3 percent and Nissan Motors Philippines Inc. had 7.8 percent.



Nilda, an incoming freshman at Araullo University in Cabanatuan, feels that her dream is now within reach. This year, the harvest has been good and this means that Nilda's parents are able to set aside more money for her college tuition fee. They know very well how much she wants to finish college and be a teacher or an accountant someday. Neither of her parents, both farmers, reached high school. *"Ngayon dapat may diploma ka,"* Nilda says, *"kung gusto mong mas maganda ang buhay mo."*

By buying existing schools in the country's major cities---from college down to elementary levels---the PHINMA Education Network aims to make quality education affordable and accessible to students like Nilda. By efficiently managing school systems, PHINMA seeks to upgrade the standards of education to levels comparable to Manila's colleges and universities. Now, whether Nilda will be Cabanatuan's pride, is another story.

PHINMA
Life Can Be Better

DOE inks contracts for development of 6 wind power plants in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday signed contracts with three firms for the development of six potential wind power sites with an estimated combined generating capacity of 140 megawatts (MW).

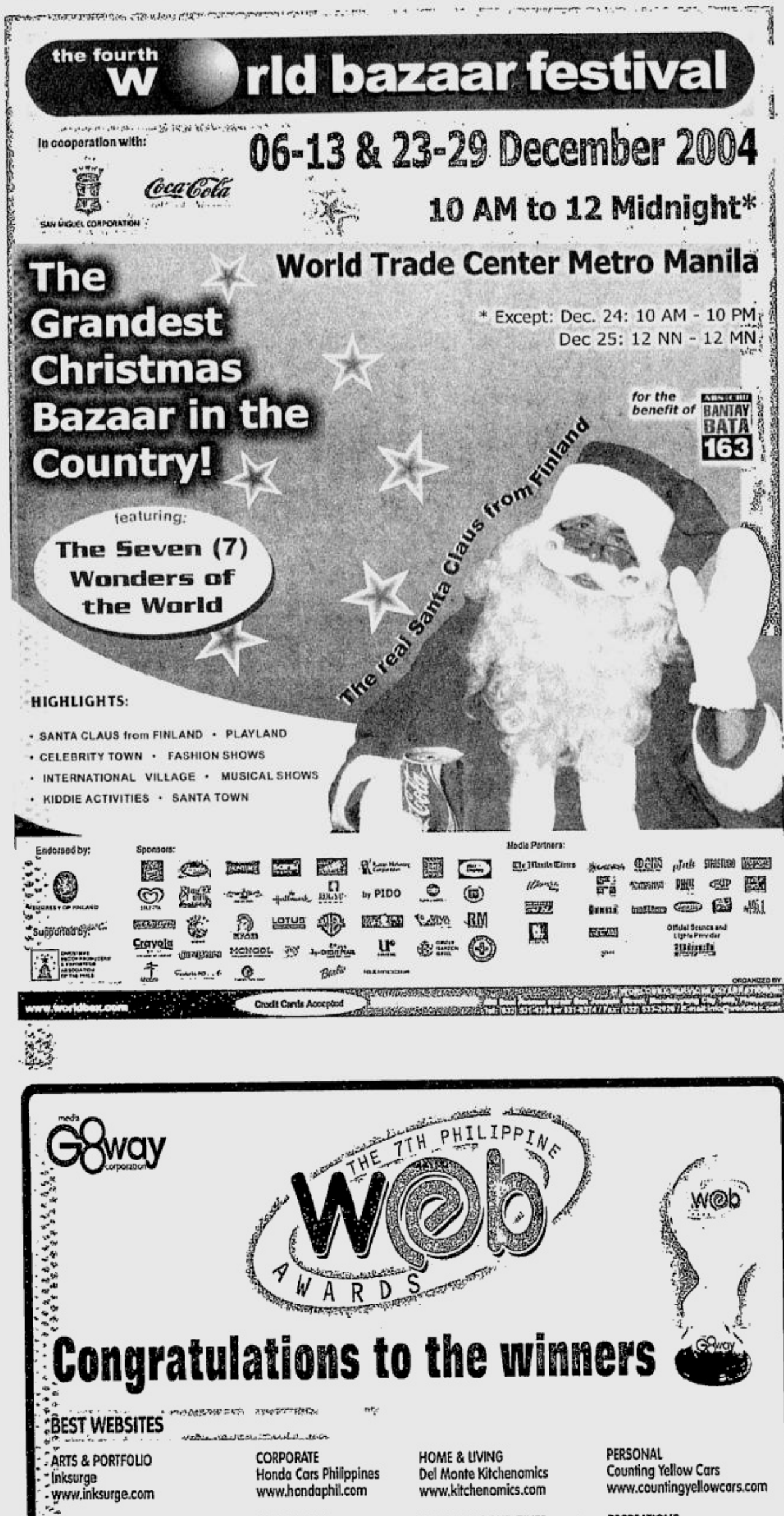
During yesterday's Wind Power Summit, the DOE signed contracts with Trans-Asia Renewable Energy Corp. and San Carlos Wind Power Corp. for one site each, and with Philippine Hybrid Energy Systems Inc. (Phesi) for four sites.

Trans-Asia, a unit of the Philippine Investment Management Inc. (Phinma) group, will explore, assess, harness and develop the wind potential in Sual, Pangasinan. The site has the potential to generate 25 MW of power.

Smith Bell Renewable Energy Corp. unit San Carlos, on the other hand, will be in charge of tapping and developing 30 MW of wind potential in San Carlos, Negros Oriental.

This should come on stream by late 2006 to early 2007, with financial closure expected by end-2005, said Ruth Yu-Owen of San Carlos.

Phesi was able to secure four sites for development: Marinduque, Baleno in Masbate and Tablas in Romblon, with a potential generating capacity of 1.2 MW to 5 MW each, wind in tandem with a diesel plant, and Abra de Ilog in Occidental Mindoro with a potential of 10 MW.



In reforestation, lives hang in the balance

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST Dec. 8, President Macapagal-Arroyo created a government task force to combat illegal logging.

"This morning, I gave (Environment) Secretary Michael Defensor, (Natural Resources Development Corp.) Chair Victor Corpus and (Justice) Secretary Raul Gonzalez one month to identify, investigate and prosecute the big-time illegal loggers, starting from the hardest hit disaster areas," the President said.

This is certainly a welcome move. Forest denudation and the absence of reforestation have resulted in hundreds of tragic deaths and shattered the lives of countless others. This was what happened when Typhoons "Winnie" and "Yoyong" recently struck the country.

According to the latest information we obtained from the National Disaster Coordinating Council yesterday morning, the toll of Winnie stood at 775 dead and 700 missing. With Yoyong, it was pegged at 67 dead and 38 missing. Many more dead and missing are expected to be reported in the coming days.

Impact on agriculture

What is not highlighted is the typhoons' devastating impact on agriculture and the farmers. As of yesterday, P2.4 billion in agriculture value was reported lost, affecting more than 200,000 farmers.

The less obvious reality is that the continuing destruction of our forests over the past decades has created havoc on Philippine agriculture and our farmers. Soil erosion, siltation, flooding and the cascading of harmful materials into lowland agricultural areas have severely affected not only the current crop, but have also damaged overall soil fertility with its long term consequences.

In addition to the creation of a government task force to apprehend illegal loggers, it is imperative that another task force composed of government, business, farmers and fisherfolk be created to formulate an aggressive multi-sectoral reforestation plan.

Magnitude of the problem

The Philippines has a total of 30 million hectares, 14 million of which are alienable and disposable. Of these, approximately 10 million are developed for agriculture, while the rest need further development. The remaining 16 million hectares are classified as forested, although 12 million are already heavily denuded. Each year, 200,000 hectares of forest are stripped and lost. Today, only 15 percent of the original forest cover in the 1900s remain.

If we are to progress, we not only have to stop forest denudation, we must also embark on an aggressive reforestation program. Instead of pinning the blame on private logging companies, small *kaingeros*, the military, government environment officials, and even the New People's Army, we need to establish a multi-sectoral citizen's movement to take the positive action of reforestation. The government cannot do it alone.

Some computations

To reforest the heavily denuded 12 million hectares, we need to plant 6 billion trees. This is calculated at 500 trees per hectare. It is estimated that it costs P15 per seedling. Annual planting and maintenance costs are P35 per tree per year. Assuming the whole project would take 10 years, this would cost approximately P500 per tree, or P25,000 per hectare for 10 years. The entire project to reforest 12 million hectares would cost P300 billion, or P30 billion a year.

This is why the government needs private sector involvement. But this kind of involvement will not spontaneously occur. Government and private sector leaders need to come up with a plan, for example, to convince 20 million out of our 85 million population to plant one tree per month for the next 10 years. By then, we would have planted 2.4 billion trees. This would cover 4.8 million hectares—a significant achievement.

A promising option

A promising option was forwarded to Alyansa Agrikultura by farmer leader Butch Umengan of Philmaize and Kasanyangan Foundation.

There is a window of opportunity that was opened up by the 1997 Kyoto Protocols. This addresses the problem of global warming brought about by the excessive emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide (CO_2). This legally binding international agreement to reduce GHG levels in the atmosphere will be enforced in mid-February 2005.

In this agreement, developed countries will buy "certificates of emission reduction" (CERs) from the developing countries that conduct reforestation. If the Philippines does not register for this mechanism, we will lose the ability to avail of the funds. According to Umengan, we have neither registered nor prepared the project documents for registration. If we do not start this preparation by January of next year, we might miss the final registration deadline of Dec. 31, 2005.

Here is how the CER works: If we conduct a mixed tree plantation, this will capture about 36.7 tons of CO_2 annually per hectare. At the current market price, the developed countries are legally bound to buy the CER equivalent of this at P10,000 per hectare per year.

Though the amount may start coming within three to five years after planting, it can provide the incentive necessary for more aggressive reforestation. This is especially so since the annual P10,000 per hectare will be on top of any additional revenue to be obtained from the possible sale of the forest products and by-products. For more information on this, call 0917-7104811.

Urgent

Just as there is an urgent need to catch illegal loggers, so is there an equal need to plant trees. Reforestation affects the lives of the small farmers and fisherfolk.

CER registration and innovative private sector schemes should just be some of the matters to be considered for a multi-sectoral reforestation plan.

Without this pro-active component, we will be forever on the defensive. We will then lose the life and death battle to preserve our environment and our future.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

CAP seeks SEC nod to draw P100M from trust fund

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. is seeking the Securities and Exchange Commission's permission to withdraw around P100 million from its trust fund to be able to pay the tuition fees of its scholars, said Bobby Café, CAP first vice president.

CAP came up with the proposal to settle its claims by using its trust fund after the SEC barred the pre-need firm from selling additional education and pension plans.

In order to preserve its trust fund, Café said, CAP would have to replace the amount to be withdrawn or substitute it with a portion of its Metro Rail Transit bonds.

To date, the trust fund is worth around P3.1 billion, down from P3.4 billion after the SEC earlier allowed the pre-need firm to use some of its MRT bond assets to settle tuition claims of plan holders some months back.

Before the SEC would allow CAP to again draw from its trust fund, the pre-need firm should show that the funds were used to settle tuition fees.

Café said CAP would submit a list of bank checks issued to students and schools paid out with earlier funds drawn from its trust fund.

Café also said that the pre-need firm was still in the process of removing unclean titles in its proposed property-for-share swap with two firms, Green Circle Properties & Resources Inc. and Green Square Properties Corp.

The SEC earlier questioned the property-share swap deal, saying that the titles to be transferred are "encumbered" or already owned by the government to be distributed to farmers under a land reform program, an official of the commission said.

Under that deal, Green Circle Properties & Resources Inc., Green Square Properties Corp. would subscribe to shares of CAP, and pay for these by assigning to CAP 3,000 hectares of property in Dingalan, Aurora.

The two firms estimated the total fair market value of the property at P6 billion based on the evaluation of its external appraiser, Cuervo Appraisers Inc. Through the property swap, Green Circle and Green Square would own 51 percent of CAP.

The SEC has so far disallowed CAP from selling education and pension plans.

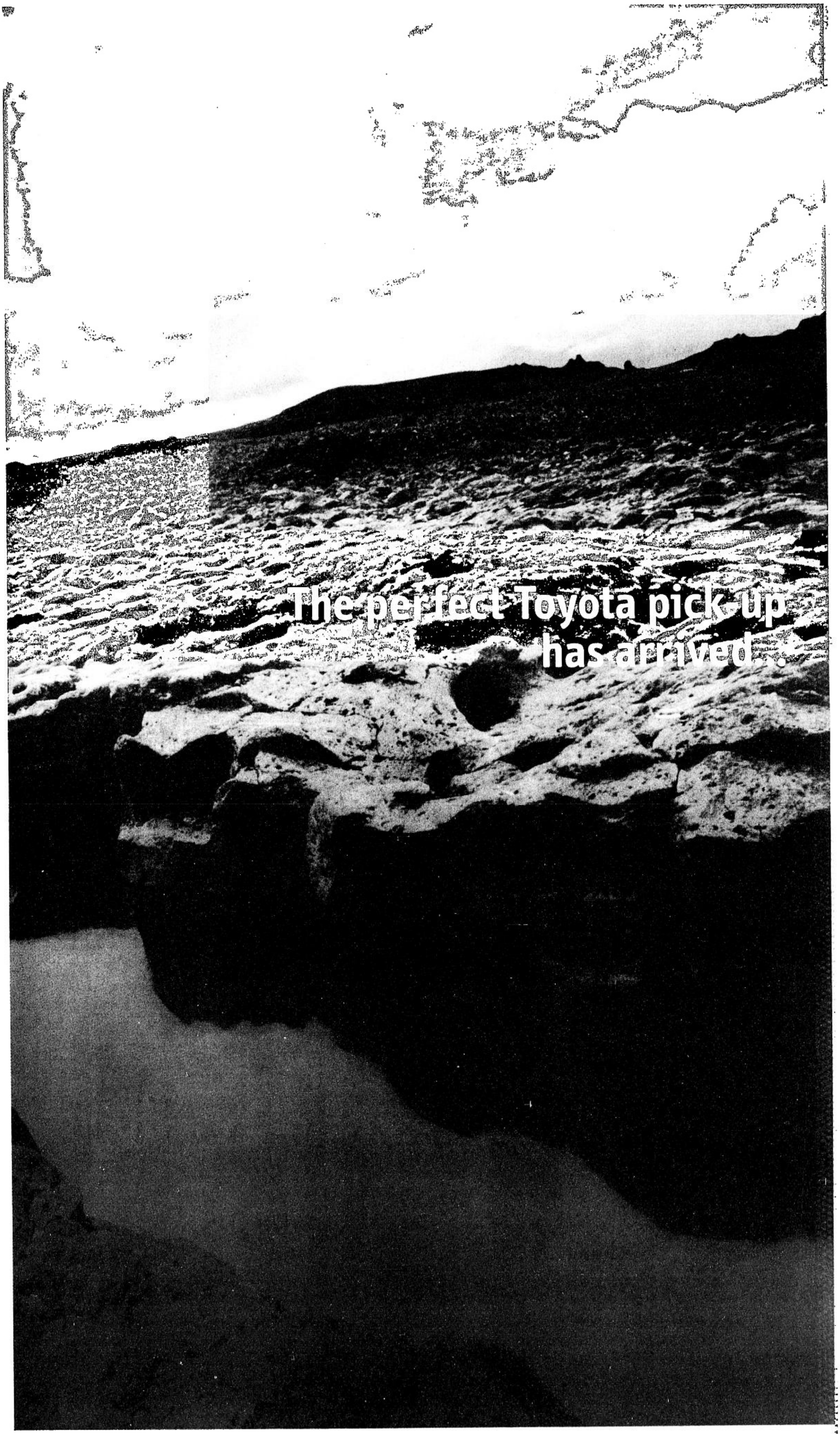
SEC chair Fe Barin had said that CAP still needed to address its twin problems—constraints on its solvency or capital and liquidity.

Both are measures of how a company is able to convert assets into cash at a price close to fair market values which can be used to meet short-term investments or liabilities.

"We do not want to be a party to enabling them to sell more plans when they are still having problems meeting the requirements of existing plans," Barin said.

CAP has yet to complete its proposal to raise its capital to P8 billion from the present P300 million.

The capital increase is a key requirement in its application to renew its dealer's license which expired last Sept.30.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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

The bare minimum (corporate income tax) - I

By Romulo S. Danao
and Michael Dana N. Montero
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

UNDER the 1997 Tax Code, a 2 percent minimum corporate income tax or MCIT is imposed on a company when its taxable income is zero or negative or when the MCIT is greater than the normal income tax due. The 2 percent MCIT is based on the "gross income" and is imposed beginning on the fourth taxable year from the time when the company started its business operations.

Like the other provisions of the Tax Code, the imposition of the MCIT requires certain clarifications. In most cases, the BIR supplements the Tax Code provisions by issuing clarificatory implementing regulations. For MCIT, the BIR issued Revenue Regulations 09-98 and Revenue Memorandum Circular 04-03 to implement the provisions of the Tax Code on MCIT.

Since the MCIT is based on "gross income," one big issue is how to determine the gross income of a company subject to 2 percent MCIT. In Revenue Regulations 09-98, the BIR defined the following important terms:

"Gross income" is defined as gross sales less sales returns, discounts and allowances and cost of goods sold. Second, "gross sales" was clarified to include only sales contributory to income taxable under Section 27(A) of the Code. Third, "cost of goods sold" was interpreted to include all business expenses directly incurred to produce the merchandise to bring them to their present location and use.

On the interpretation of cost of goods sold, the regulations went on to state that the composition of the same will depend on the type of business of the taxpayer.

For a trading or merchandising concern, cost of goods sold will mean the invoice cost of the goods sold, plus import duties, and freight in transporting the goods to the place where the goods are actually sold, including insurance while the goods are in transit.

For a manufacturing concern, the cost of goods manufactured and sold means all costs of production of finished goods, such as raw materials used, direct labor and manufacturing overhead, freight cost, insurance premiums and other costs incurred to bring the raw materials to the factory or warehouse.

Finally, in the case of sales of services, the term gross income means gross receipts less sales returns, allowances, discounts and cost of services. "Cost of services" means all direct costs and expenses necessarily incurred to provide the services required by the customers and clients including (a) salaries and employee benefits of personnel, consultants and specialists directly rendering the service, and (b) cost of facilities directly utilized in providing the service such as depreciation or rental of equipment used and cost of supplies.

While the efforts to clarify the general provisions related to MCIT proved helpful to taxpayers, there were still some issues left unanswered. Most of the issues centered around a more specific definition of cost of services for those engaged in the sale of services. For this reason, the BIR has once again come up with a new issuance, Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) 04-03.

At the onset, it should be clarified that RMC 04-03 dwells substantially on the area of cost of services and not so much on the gross receipts portion. To avoid confusion on whether a certain income item is included for purposes of computing the MCIT, RMC 04-03 has provided the following rules for specific types of businesses.

First, for banks and non-bank financial intermediaries performing quasi-banking activities, gross receipts refer to the actual or constructive receipts from interests, commissions, and discounts from lending activities. As already stated, all other items treated as gross income under Section 32 of the Tax Code that are not subject to final withholding income tax, are considered as gross receipts.

The term "cost of services" refers to those that were directly and exclusively incurred for the following activities: (1) lending/investment of funds; (2) obtaining of funds from the public through the receipt of deposits; and (3) trading of foreign exchange and other financial instruments. *(To be continued.)*

Retailers set gold standard

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE UNRELENTING pursuit of excellence. Intimate knowledge of fickle customer tastes. Paranoia over competition.

These are just some of the key ingredients that made the latest retail excellence awardees of the Philippine Retailers Association grow their businesses, from mustard seeds into mighty trees.

BAYO showcases world-class Filipino design

Video City

Despite the proliferation of cheap, pirated digital video discs in the market, Video City still managed to expand its network by 500 percent.

This could be partly attributed to Video City's affiliation with Viva Films, making it the only video chain that is fully supported by the local entertainment industry.

The company, thus, managed to grow its library into one of the most extensive and diverse in the industry, which it made available to the public at an affordable price.

This library and relationship with its customers won for it the outstanding retailer award for the services category.

Memo

Named the most promising retailer in the fashion category was Memo, the newest member of the growing Penshoppe fashion family.

It is one of the fastest growing in the industry and tries to differentiate itself from the market by designing clothes for men and women that can be worn in and out of the office.

Memo is guided by the same principles behind the success of Penshoppe—an eye for design and quality while keeping prices within reach of the ordinary Filipino.

HBC Inc.

The winner in the specialty category was HBC Inc., dubbed "The Home of Beauty Exclusives."

Following the long tradition of the Hortaleza family in the beauty business, HBC was again developed with the ordinary Filipinos in mind.

HBC believes that every Filipino wants to look good, not just those who can afford the cosmetics peddled by multinational companies.

Thus, it came up with a full line of affordable products, from soaps, to hair care products, to cosmetics.

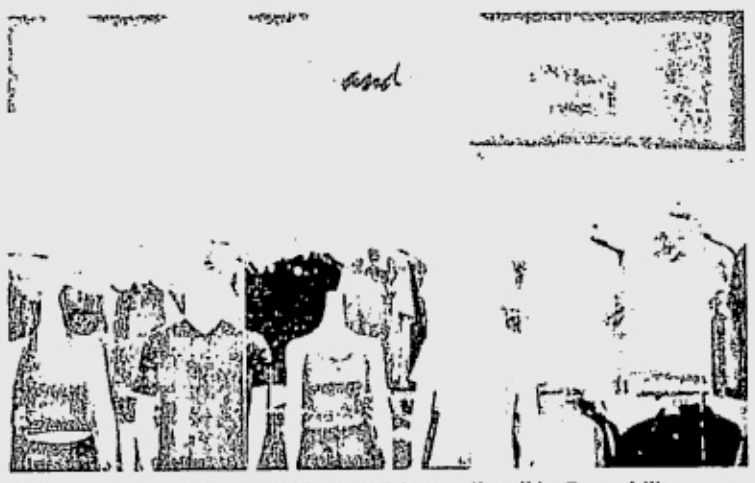
And new product lines are constantly added to the portfolio, as demanded by its fast-growing clientele.

Folded and Hung

For the small-scale fashion category, Folded and Hung was adjudged the winner.

It won by a nose over other equally successful fashion names that included leather products producer Fino and women's fashion firms Freeway, Her Bench and Pink Soda.

The way Folded and Hung expanded from its humble beginnings as a *tiangge* stall in Greenhills still amazes founder Ronald Pineda, but it comes as no surprise to those who patronize his line of trendy clothes.



FOLDED and Hung started from a "tiangge" stall in Greenhills

Regalong Pambahay

Its vision to sell the best in local design and craftsmanship won for Regalong Pambahay the outstanding retailer award in the small scale, non-fashion category.

It has become a byword among Filipinos who want to give their foreigner friends something of the Philippines to bring back home.

But it is not limited to the tourist market. Far from it.

It is also a must-go-to place for locals who either want to add some life into their homes by putting in new accent pieces, or those looking for gifts.

Whatever their needs, Regalong Pambahay always strives to meet it, making it ripe for an even more rapid expansion in the next years.

Bayo

Chosen the winner in the medium-scale fashion category was Bayo, over competitors Celine, Kamiseta and Rusty Lopez.

Fair labor practices, world-class services standards and eye catching window displays were among the factors cited by the judges for naming Bayo the best in its category.

These are on top of its wide-ranking line of clothes that could show the world why Filipinos can give foreigners a run for their money in the race for design.

Sportshouse

Sportshouse was put up years ago,at a time when most Filipinos' sports vocabulary was largely limited to basketball.

Sportshouse helped contribute to the growing health consciousness of Filipinos, and it wants to be on top of people's minds when they go out looking for the latest in fitness equipment.

For its efforts, it became the unanimous choice for the award as outstanding retailer in the medium-scale specialty category.

Mercury Drug

Those who never bought medicine at a Mercury Drug store must either be someone who never got sick or has not been to the Philippines.

That is because after almost 60 years in the business, Mercury Drug has grown its branch network into one of the most extensive in the country.

It is by far the biggest drugstore in the country, and it grew because it has always been a step ahead of the competition.

From just simply selling medicine, Mercury Drug's services expanded to include providing health information, a frequent user card and even selling grocery items.

It is considered a "category killer" because it "kills" off the competition, especially if placed side by side in a mall or in one location.

Mercury Drug is expected to continue its killing spree as it has no plans of keeping its eye off competition, despite its dominant presence.

National Bookstore

The same values are shared by Mercury Drug's fellow category killer, National Bookstore.

National Bookstore is the Philippines' largest bookstore chain and has been in operation for more than 50 years with over 40 branches.

It has cemented its place in the retail industry by offering the widest selection of books and school/office supplies under one roof.

PRA president Bienvenido Tantoco III said these retail stores stood out from the rest because they have always sought excellence in everything that they do. They will not accept any less.

"These retail firms are winners because they are not in the market to just get by. They are out there to win, not by destroying competition but by keeping customers in mind," Tantoco says in an interview.

He adds that these retail firms made a name for themselves because they found a niche where they are good at, and focused their time and energy into making their firms the best in that niche.

Going up against the giants in service marketing

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: For our marketing paper, we (a group of marketing students) were able to get the cooperation of an SME drugstore with four branches in two cities of northern Metro Manila. The consolidated monthly sales of the four drugstores averaged about P1 million to P1.5 million. The major marketing concern of the drugstore management is how "to maintain and grow its market share in a cluttered drugstore market that includes drugstore giants like Mercury." For our analysis, we are thinking of following your diagnosis of the Unitrade case that you discussed in one of your previous columns. That was about Unitrade's EQ Diapers and how it successfully competed against giants in its category and their brands like P&G's Pampers and Kimberly Clark's Huggies and Kimbies.

A: This was a marketing paper that was submitted to and evaluated by the senior MRx.

A drugstore is in service marketing. So avoid confusing product marketing with service marketing. Unitrade and its EQ Diaper brand is in product marketing. The practice of product marketing is very different from service marketing practice.

We know that you've heard that "the basic principles remain the same." That is true but the trouble is it's one of the many half-truths in our discipline. A half-truth is misleading. If you do the half that is true in it, then you're okay. But if you happen to do the other half that is its untruth, then you're in trouble. The effectiveness of your marketing practice is in its details of implementation, not in its principles. The real truth and the true marketing reality are in those details. The saying, "the devil is in the details," is a whole truth, not a half-truth.

Categorize your business correctly. You're not in product marketing; you're in service marketing. Remember: wrong categorizing of the business, wrong diagnosis.

Market share in service marketing

Let's start by considering your question regarding "market share." In product marketing, this refers to total market share. In service marketing where your sales are a function of your locations, market share is reckoned by location. So when you say you're concerned about growing "market share in a cluttered drugstore market that includes drugstore giants like Mercury," this applies only to those four stores where there is a nearby Mercury branch.

In service marketing, market share changes by location. That's where they are competing especially with the drugstore giants. They are not competing with Mercury in locations where they don't have a store.

Next, they have to be clear about the category of service marketing where they belong. Among the four categories that Chris Lovelock (the leading authority in service marketing), their drugstores belong to the "hybrid category combining more or less equal parts of goods and services." A restaurant, a bookstore or a supermarket belongs to this category and so does your drugstore.

Lovelock's three other service categories are as follows:

- "Tangible with accompanying services category." Here's where computers and cars belong.
- "Major service with accompanying minor goods category." Examples are airline flight service and house cleaning service.
- "Pure service category." Here is where our own businesses belong: training service and consultancy service.

We anticipate that you would probably argue that they are more like a car dealer and therefore belong more to the tangible-with-accompanying-services category more than the hybrid category. But they are already talking about the drugstore owners' concern for its drugstore "brand equity." This is because they claim that their "drug line measures up to Mercury."

Positioning—Mercury example

Notice how Mercury's brand equity is positioning Mercury as the drugstore where "*garantisadong gamut ay laging bago*" (medicine are guaranteed to be always new). This is a positioning of its drug retailing service; not the medication products and brands its stores are carrying. It is a service positioning that satisfies the two necessary conditions for a positioning statement.

First is the satisfaction of drugstore customers' priority drugstore service value of finding medications that are newly delivered or produced. Second is satisfaction by Mercury of that priority value better than any other competing drugstore.

If you're planning to do something about their drugstore's brand equity you must do something similar. You may want to start by finding out the drugstore priority values of their customers in each of the four locations. For this, you may want to apply the PDA question that we discussed in our Marketing Rx column last Dec. 3. That should serve well and correctly your purpose here. Then, your next step is to diagnose the drugstore's distinctiveness in satisfying their identified target drugstore customers' priorities in EACH of the four locations or stores.

When you proposed to position their drugstore brand as providing a service that's giving "Alagang pang pamilya" (a family-like care), this is confusing the "what" of a positioning with its "how." Giving "Alagang pang pamilya" is more about the "how" than the "what" of a positioning. It's also about priority customer service value only without touching on positioning's second necessary condition: the USP.

Why are we encouraging you to diagnose for EACH of your four stores? That's because unlike Mercury who is positioning its sold drugs' for their "newness" value, you are more into the service value of family-like care. And the drivers of a satisfying customer service experience are very different from the drivers for a satisfying product experience. Let's refer again to Chris Lovelock. He says: "A satisfying service performance is like a good play in a theater: good actors (or service personnel), good stage set (or service venue, physical facilities, equipment, etc.), and good staging (or service processing)."

Now, here's what's key about these three drivers. You must satisfy all three together. This is because they are multiplicatively, not additively, related. For example, let us say that the drugstore service staff gives family-like care (whatever that is), and their service venue has a family-like caring ambiance (again whatever that is). Both score a 10 on a 0-10 scale. However, your service processing is flawed (for whatever reason) and so scores a 0. Your total score then comes out as: (10 in service personnel) x (10 in service venue) x (0 in service processing) = 0. A dissatisfaction in one means a dissatisfaction in all.

Do you overpromise and under deliver?

Now let's go back to the question: why do this diagnosis in EACH of the four stores? Let's take the case of our own service experience with two Honda dealership. When we used to have a Honda Civic, we had this car serviced at the Honda Alabang Dealer Shop. This Honda service center succeeded in maintaining the superior quality service that made Honda the envy of competing brands when it first opened its first dealership in Magallanes. Its service staff, the service venue and service processing were outstanding. Then, a year ago, we changed to a Honda CRV. We bought two CRVs and had them serviced at the Honda Libis Dealer Shop. In post sales servicing, it was the exact opposite of Honda Alabang. We've never met a bunch of post-sales servicing staff (from counter clerks to sales reps and managers to its top management) who were as discourteous and arrogant as this bunch. The service processing was just as horrible. It overpromised but very disappointingly under delivered. Only the service venue scored well. So if you plug these scores into our total satisfaction equation, you will get: (0 in service personnel) x (10 in service venue) x (0 in service processing) = 0. We decided that we would have our two CRVs serviced at the Honda Alabang. Result? We got back to a delightful service experience.

So check this out with each of the four stores. You may have a Honda Libis among them. And if they have, retrain and reform the set-up and people there.

Questions or comments? E-mail them to MarketingRx@pldtdsl.net

Opec seen cutting excess crude oil production

CAIRO, Egypt—Signals of a cut in Opec production grew stronger Wednesday after the oil minister of heavyweight Saudi Arabia indicated he was aware of majority sentiment in favor of a reduction.

"Our objective is to keep the market balanced and keep it stable," Saudi Oil Minister Ali Naimi said in Cairo where the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is due to meet on Friday.

Saudi Arabia produces nearly a third of Opec's total output of 30 million barrels a day, including Iraq's production of about 2 million barrels a day.

No amount of extra output from Opec seemed to satisfy the world market for most of this year, but in recent weeks prices have dropped significantly from the summer highs of $50 a barrel.

Recovering somewhat from recent lows, light sweet crude was up 24 cents at $41.70 on the New York Mercantile Exchange early in the floor session Wednesday. But it was still at levels that could support calls by some Opec members to stem the downward trend.

In his initial remarks to reporters Wednesday, Naimi appeared to signal his country's opposition to production cuts, saying he was satisfied with current Opec output and not concerned about the most recent drop in prices.

"You guys forget—one year ago it was in the 20s, now it's in the 40s, even Saudi crude is in the 30s," he told reporters, talking in terms of dollars a barrel.

As for current Opec output—which is about a million barrels a day over the organization's formal ceiling without Iraq—he said: "I'm happy with the way it is."

He appeared to hedge later, however.

"We never meet without an objective, and when we have an objective, we take action," he said.

His comments could signal that the Saudis are moving closer to Libya, Qatar and Kuwait, Iran and Venezuela, which are urging compliance with Opec's official quota of 27 million barrels a day as a way or stemming falling crude prices.

Oil analysts in Cairo suggested that Opec sentiment for a cut appeared too strong to be ignored.

"My understanding is that they will cut back from overproduction but quotas will stay the same," said Diane Munro of Wood Mackenzie.

Joining those looking for cuts Wednesday, Edmund Dakouro, Nigeria's presidential adviser on petroleum and energy, said he wanted to a see "a signal to the market to stop a further fall."

Dakouro said a good first step would be to Opec members to stick to their current production quotas.

Fathi bin Shatwan, Libya's oil minister, said Opec had two options at its Friday meeting—either directly reducing actual production or lowering the official output ceiling.

Asked which of the two options he backed, Shatwan said "I prefer both." *AP*

A TRADER shout orders in the crude oil futures pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude oil futures rose above $42 a barrel Wednesday after government data showed an increase in US fuel supplies. AP

China output slowed in Nov.

BEIJING—China's industrial output growth eased to 14.8 percent in November, its slowest pace in 18 months as government measures to curb the economy show signs of taking effect, official data showed Thursday.

Production slowed from 15.7 percent in October and 17.9 percent for the same month last year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.

Output for the first 11 months of 2004 grew 16.8 percent, unchanged from the same period in 2003.

Citigroup analyst Huang Yiping said the slowdown was an encouraging sign but more economic figures in the coming months should be taken into account.

In October, the government raised interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade as part of its efforts to cool the economy and there has been heated debate since as to whether more hikes would come.

For the three months to September, China's economy grew 9.1 percent compared with a year earlier, after 9.8 percent in the first quarter and 9.6 percent in the second.

At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum last month in Chile, Chinese President Hu Jintao said the mainland's economy would grow by "around 9 percent" this year.

Strong economic growth is expected to continue in 2005, driven by increased urbanization, industrialization and rising private consumption.

In November, total vehicle output grew 5.9 percent while car output fell 5.7 percent year-on-year, largely reflecting government measures to curb growth in this sector.

Xie noted that apart from the falling car output, growth in other sectors was still strong.

Power production in November was up 14.4 percent year-on-year, compared with 15.8 percent in October, crude oil and natural gas rose 4.5 percent and 23.9 percent, respectively, with coal up 12.9 percent. *AFP*

Worries over Japan economy growing

TOKYO—Japan's core machinery orders, a key gauge of future business investment, fell in October, data showed on Thursday, against expectations and fanning concerns about the capital spending that has bolstered a slowing economic recovery.

The machinery orders figures came a day after revised data showed the economy barely grew in July-September, suggesting Japan's recovery was weaker than many had thought.

Thursday's Cabinet Office figures showed core private-sector machinery orders fell 3.1 percent in October from September.

Economists had on average predicted a 2-percent rise, though forecasts for the highly volatile figure ranged from a rise of 8 percent to a fall of 2 percent.

The government downgraded its assessment of machinery orders for the second month in a row, saying they were becoming weak.

Compared with the same month last year, core orders, which exclude those for ships and equipment at electric power firms, fell 9.9 percent against a median forecast of a 5-percent drop.

The data spurred further selling of Tokyo shares and caused the dollar to firm against the yen.

Other economists were more upbeat about the outlook for machinery orders.

"It's slightly weaker than expected but I see no reason to turn pessimistic," said Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital in Tokyo.

"October was a month when oil prices were rising and the outlook for the US and Chinese economies appeared a bit uncertain, so companies may have taken a very cautious stance in making orders."

Data last week showed industrial output fell 1.6 percent in October from a month earlier as weak demand in the electronics sector, a major earthquake and typhoons disrupted production.

On Wednesday, revised government data showed the world's second-largest economy grew 0.1 percent in July-September from the previous quarter, or an annualized 0.2 percent, following a slight contraction in the preceding three months.

The figures come amid growing concerns about a slowdown in Japan's economic recovery, mainly due to weaker overseas demand.

Details showed weaker global demand reduced net exports, which became a negative contributor to growth. It was the first negative contribution from external demand in eight quarters.

Separate data earlier on Thursday showed Japan's current account surplus rose in October from a year earlier for the 16th month in a row as trade surplus continued to gain. *Reuters*

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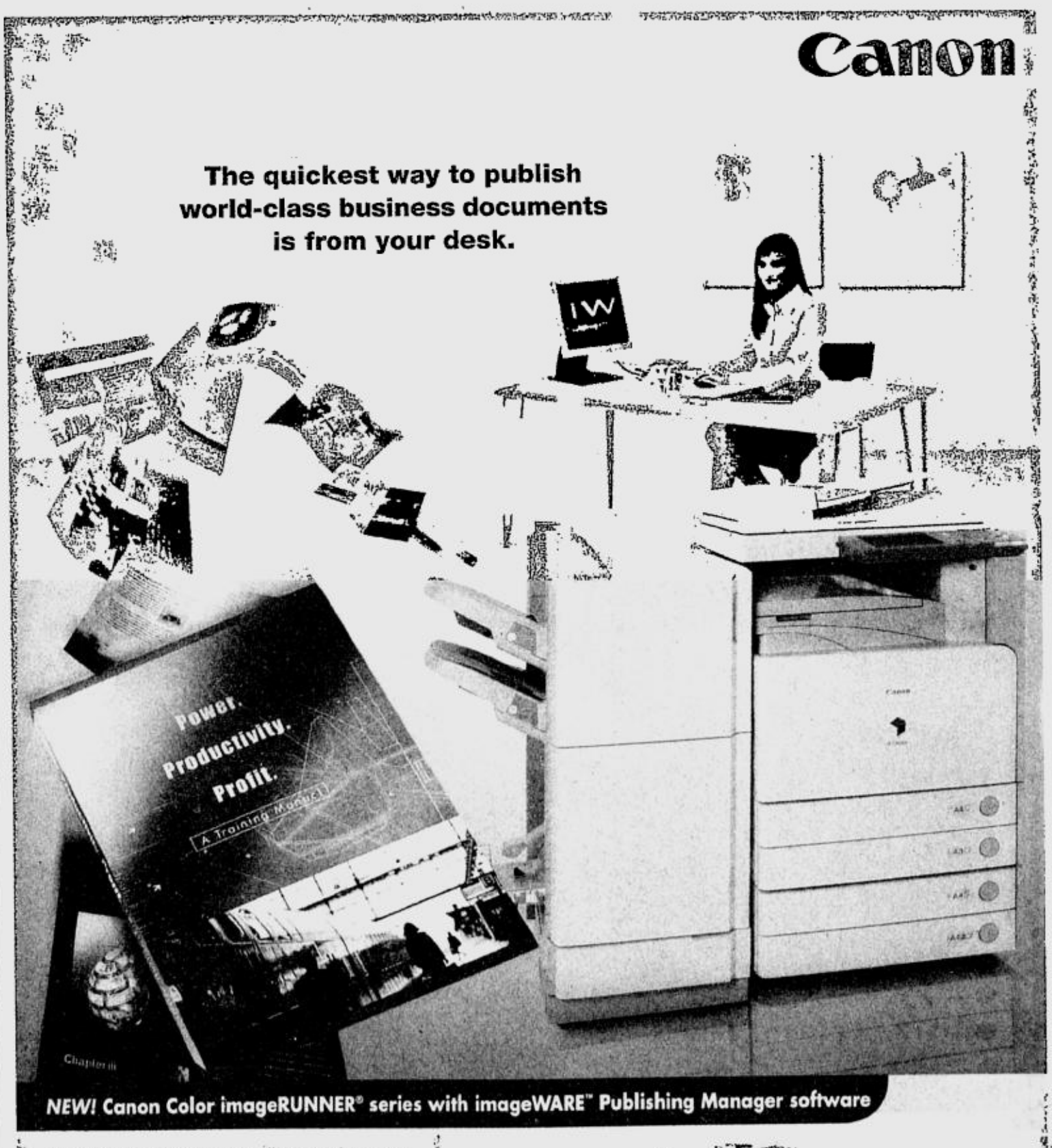

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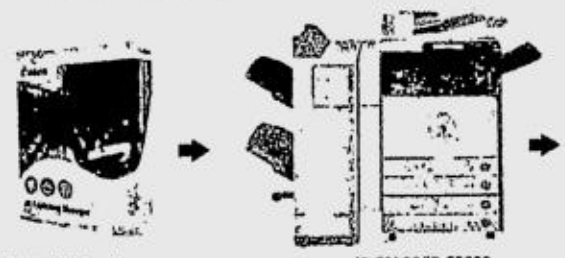

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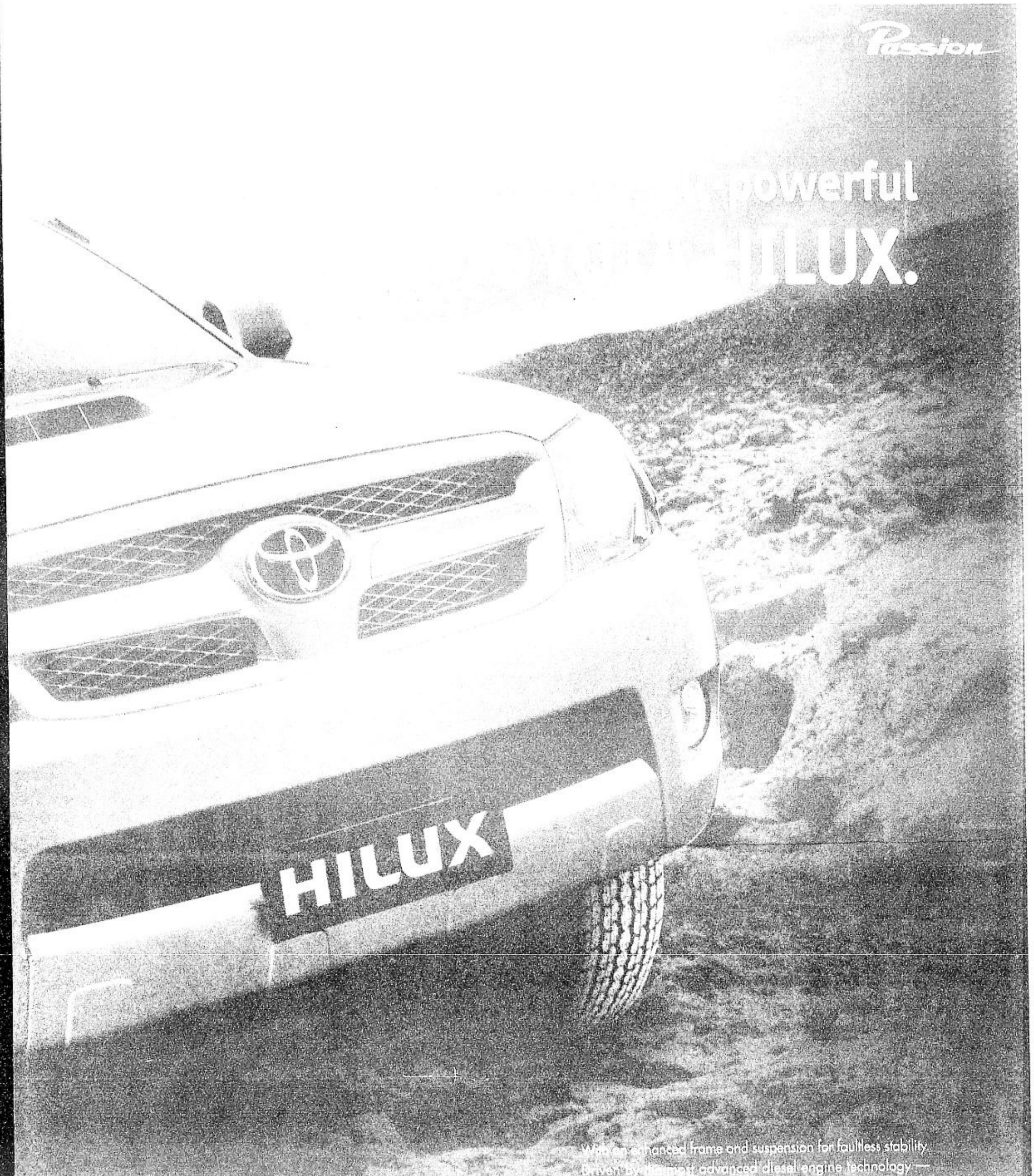

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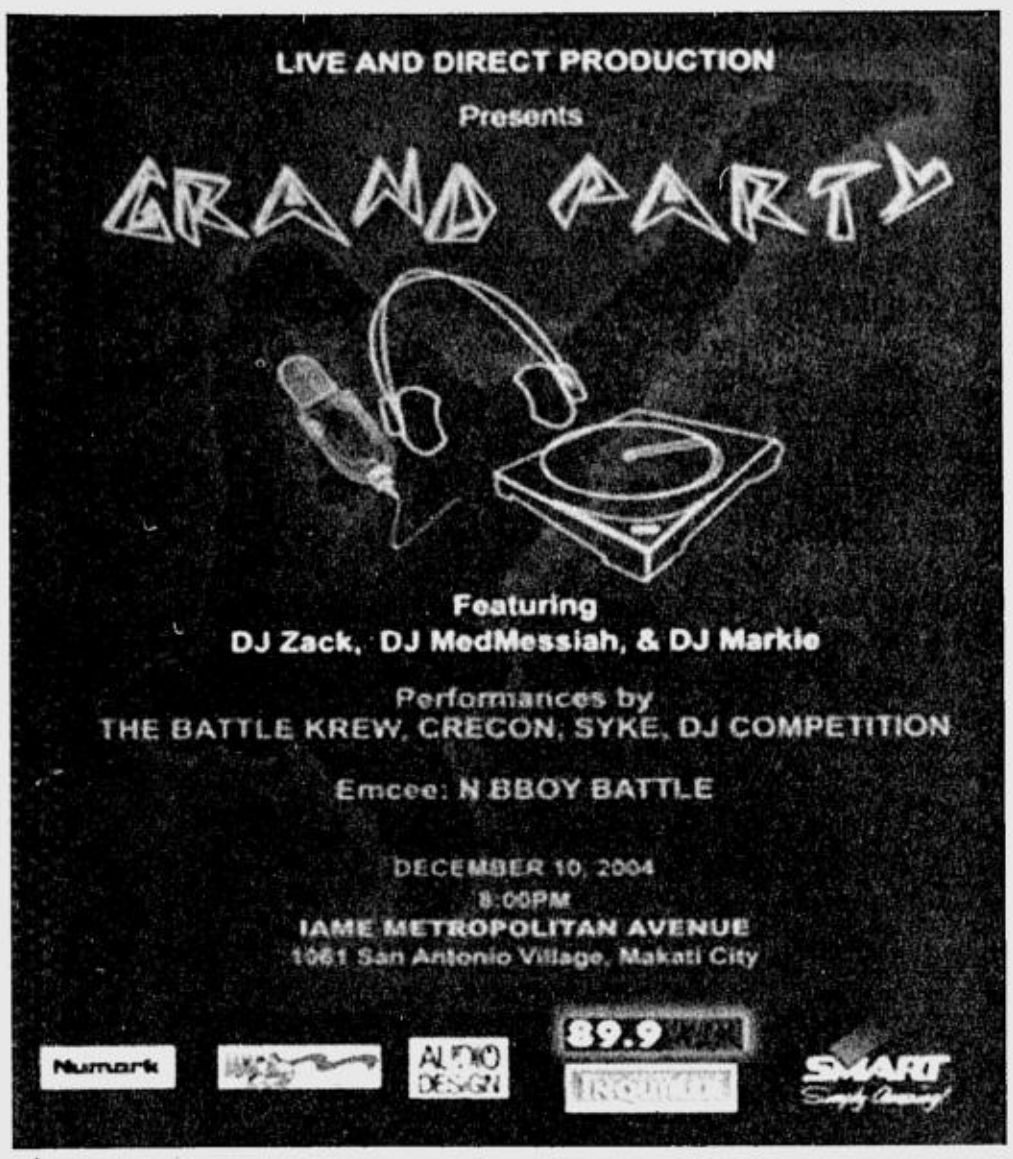
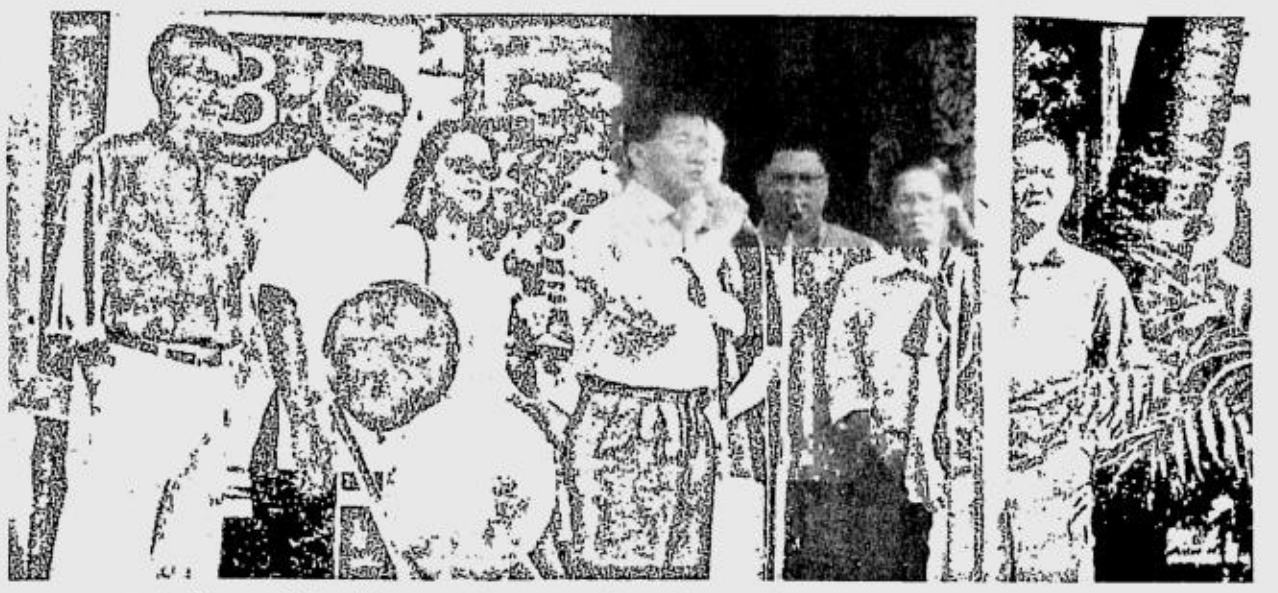


UAP leads National Architecture Week



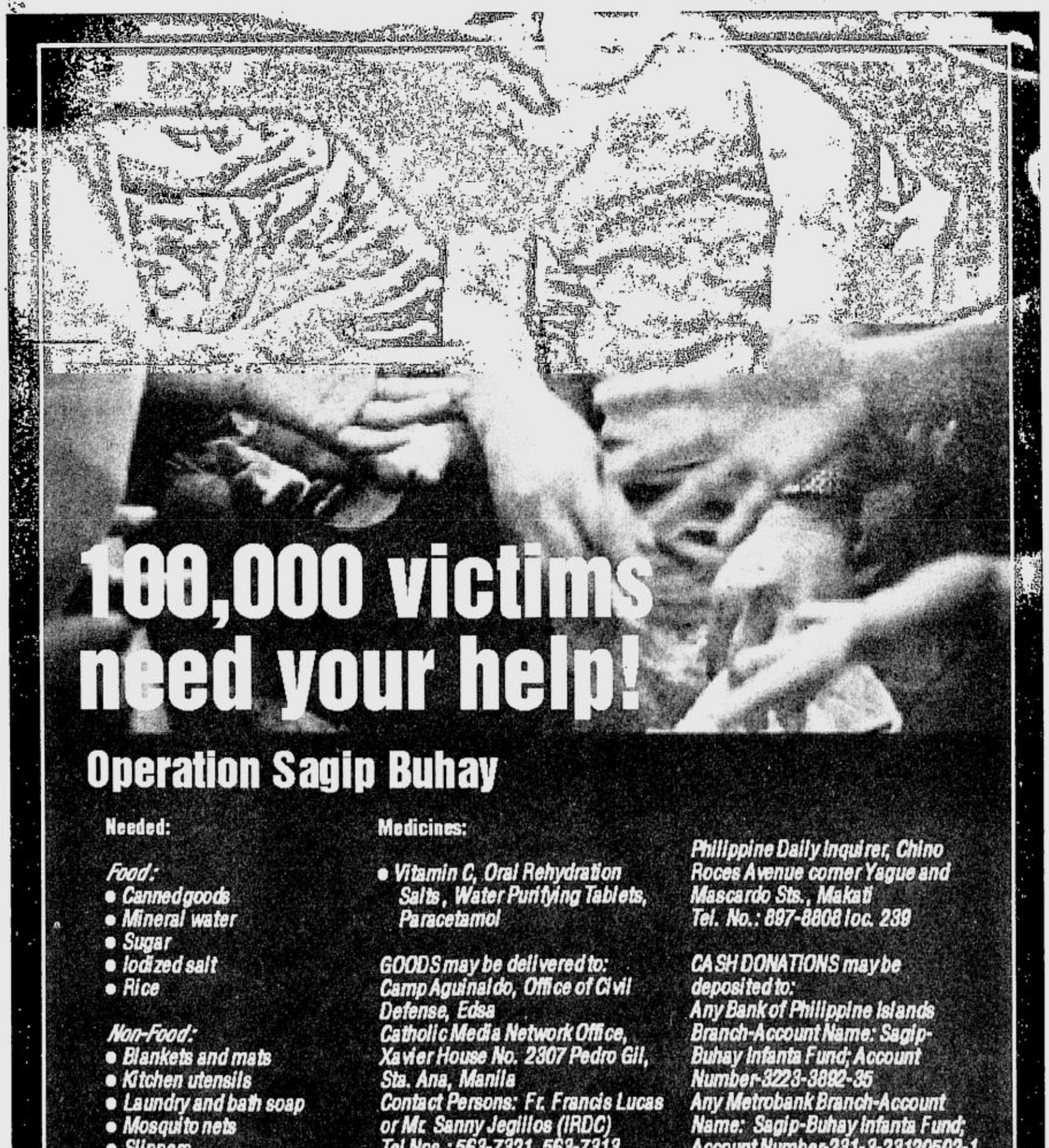
THE UNITED Architects of the Philippines-the integrated and professional organization of architects-led the nationwide celebration of the National Architecture Week (NAW) from Dec. 5 to 11.

UAP national president Enrique O. Olonan opened the NAW celebration with a message to the different chapter and district officers in a flag-raising ceremony at the UAP national headquarters in Quezon City Sunday morning. Afterwards, the UAP Metro Manila chapters conducted a long and colorful motorcade from Quezon City up to Caloocan City Hall to kick off and drumbeat the occasion.

On the days that followed, architect Olonan graced that architectural exhibit of the UAP Bulacan Chapter at SM Marilao, Bulacan, induction ceremonies of the new national officers of the UAP Graduate Auxiliary (UAPGA) at Libis, Quezon City, gift giving program at Damas De Filipinas, Paco, Manila, and tree planting program at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Quezon City, among other events.

Members of the UAP national board of directors will also pay a courtesy call on MMDA chair Bayani Fernando today, Dec. 10, to express their support to MMDA's management policies and urban development projects. The board awarded a plaque to Fernando for his sterling performance in public service.

The weeklong celebration ends with an awarding, recognition and culmination night back-to-back with a musical concert at Moomba Restaurant in Quezon City on Dec. 11. Shown from left are architects Abelardo Miraflor, Enrique Olonan, Jean Cornejo, Jaime Silva, Rodolfo Vidallon, Virgilio Andres Jr, Amado Tandoc and Edric Marco Florentino.



Capturing EK moments with Sony

ONE MAGICAL place comes to mind when talking about Christmas fun:

Enchanted Kingdom. Family and friends troop to Sta. Rosa Laguna to get their dose of Holiday laughter and adventure as they frolic around the county's premier theme park.

Since nothing spells "fun" better than awesome rides such as Space Shuttle, Log Jam or Anchors Away, Sony ingeniously brings its now-famous "We Got Ya! Roadshow" to Enchanted Kingdom to showcase the exciting features and chic styles of all Handycam, Cybershot and accessories.

Groups of family and friends are invited to join the Game Park Challenge wherein participants are asked to complete a number of tasks within the park. Of course, this activity and all other theme park memories are captured with the latest Sony Handycam and Cybershot products. Plus, get the chance to create your own music videos and slide show presentations with the Picture Package, a video editing software of Sony, and take home your edited videos and photos of these precious moments for free. With the advanced and developed technologies of Mega Pixel Engine for Handycam and Real Imaging Processor for Cybershot, bundled with the power and expertise of Carl Zeiss lens, Sony allows us to capture images as close to real life as possible.

Catch the Sony Handycam and Cybershot We Got Ya! Roadshow as it takes Enchanted Kingdom by storm on Dec. 11 and 12.

'33 Laws of Success and Property'

THE "33 Amazing Laws of Success and Prosperity" will be the topic of a new seminar to be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the Ateneo de Manila University Professional Schools located at 20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati.

"Many are like fish in an aquarium, always swimming but getting nowhere because they are violating many of these laws," said Rodolfo Torres, author of over 20 self-help books here and in the United States, who will conduct the seminar.

These laws are as real as the law of gravity-violate them at your own risk, he said.

"This seminar will help you develop a more positive outlook in life," Torres said.

It will help you build and develop a team of positive thinkers. An organization of positive thinkers will outsmart, outperform, and outthink one composed of negative thinkers, he explained.

To get more details about the seminar, call Listen-N-Learn at 912-2309 or text 0917-2582477.

Castrol Zoom Club launch reset

DUE to typhoon Yoyong, Castrol Philippines has decided to reset the Dec. 3 launch of its Zoom Club Card to today, Dec. 10 at Club Halo, Mile Long Square, Amorsolo Street, Makati. For inquiries, call the Castrol Zoom Club hotline at 533-7798 or log on to www.castrolzoomclub.com.

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Dec. 13, Mon.	Ateneo College Glee Club	SM Megamall	In-Hymn Acapella	SM Bicutan
Dec. 14, Tue.	In-Hymn Acapella	SM North Mall		
Dec. 15, Wed.	In-Hymn Acapella	SM Manila		
Dec. 16, Thu.	Ateneo College Glee Club	SM San Fernando	In-Hymn Acapella	SM Southmall
Dec. 18, Sat.	Ateneo College Glee Club	SM North Mall	In-Hymn Acapella	SM Fairview
Dec. 20, Mon.	Ateneo College Glee Club	The Podium	In-Hymn Acapella	SM Manila
Dec. 21, Tue.	In-Hymn Acapella	SM North Mall		

Everyone is cordially invited to listen to the artists' rendition of heart-warming Christmas melodies

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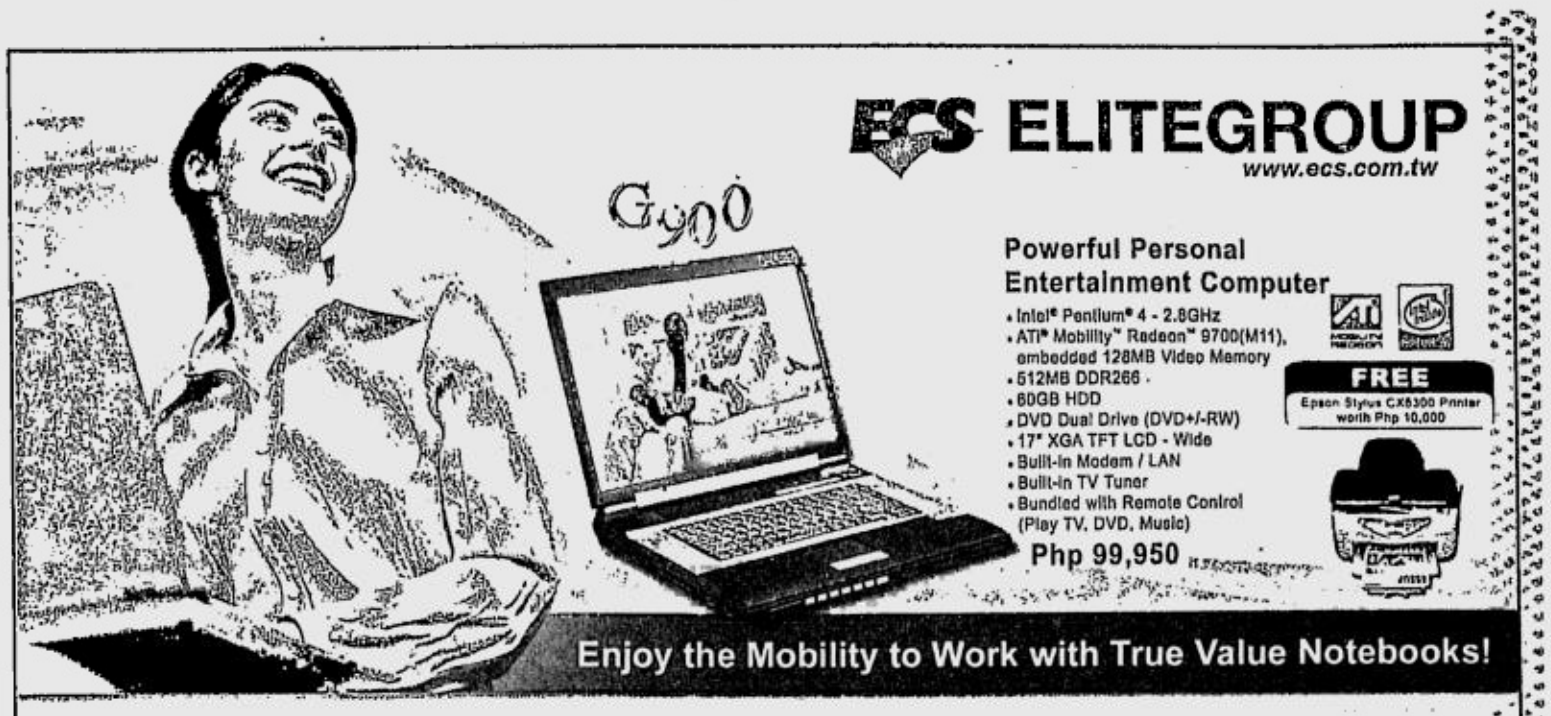

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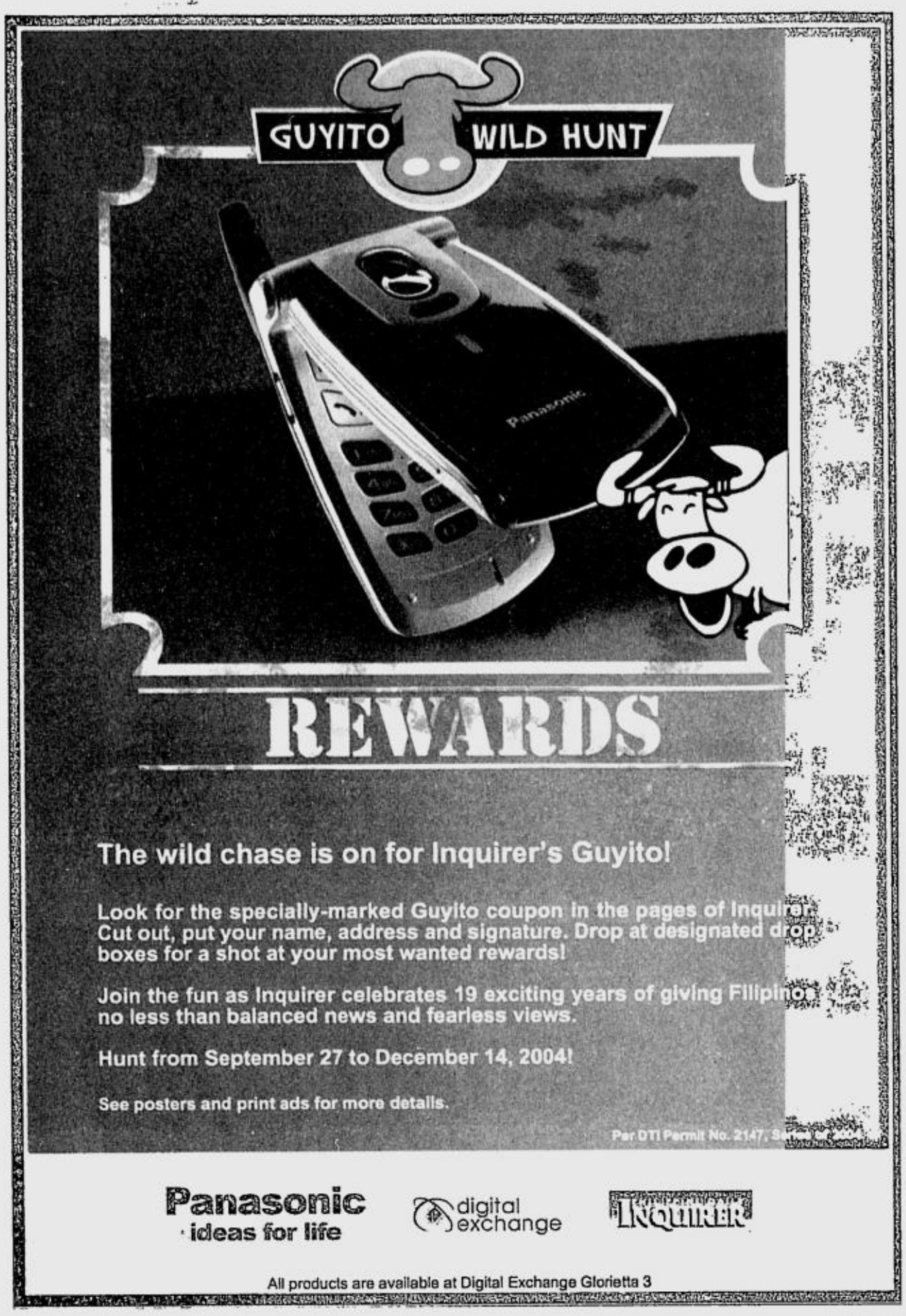


BUSINESSMEN walk past Tokyo brokerage's electric board indicating the day's stock average slipping down 173 points. The Nikkei Stock Average of 225 issues closed at 10,776.63 points on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Thursday, down 164.74 points, or 1.51 percent, from Wednesday. AP

Asia stocks hit highs

SINGAPORE—The biggest one-day oil price fall in three years and strong US economic data sent Asian stocks to multi-year highs on Thursday, following Wall Street, sweeping aside export worries even as the dollar hit a new low.

US crude prices, which dropped 7.5 percent overnight on a larger-than-expected increase in US fuel stocks, steadied above $45 a barrel in early Asian trade.

The dollar slipped to $1.3370 against the euro, a record low, as concerns about the United States' twin deficits piled on the selling pressure. The lower dollar helped push gold to a new 16 year high.

Stocks were supported by US Institute for Supply Management data which showed the outlook for US manufacturing improved in November.

US consumer spending also showed a sharper-than-expected 0.7 percent rise in October, while the Federal Reserve said the US economy continued its expansion over the past month, with labor market conditions improving and business lending on the rise.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average climbed 1.62 percent to 10,959.0, with Toyota Motor bouncing up 1.05 percent from Wednesday's seven-month closing low.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.1 percent for a three-and-a-half-year high, and an MSCI index of non-Japan shares climbed 1.27 percent to 257.55 after touching a near five-year high.

Concerns early in the week about the ability of US consumers to absorb Asia's exports were allayed by the US data.

Asian investors moved into sectors that were hard hit in recent days.

"Their targets are high-tech and other exporters which have been a bit oversold," said Koichi Seki, equity manager at Chuo Securities," ... a fall in oil prices is a plus for the global economy."

But the crude price fall took its toll on energy stocks.

Gold topped $456 an ounce for the first time in 16-¼ years on the dollar's slide.

Singapore's Straits Times added 1.02 percent, and Taiwan's benchmark index climbed 0.85 percent.

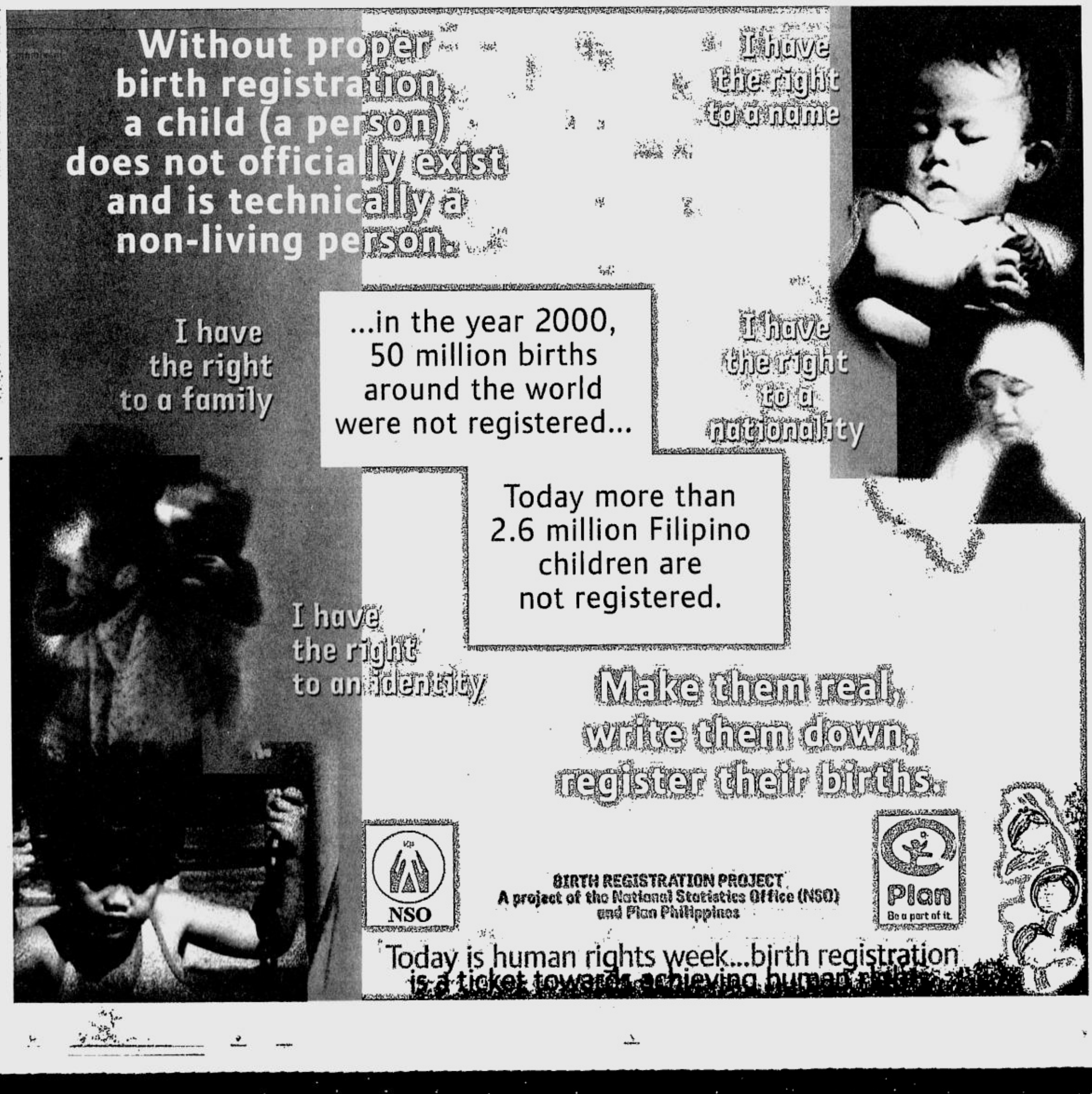
Australia's S&P ASX 200 hit a record and stood 1.05 percent higher, while South Korea's KOSPI rose 1.25 percent. Malaysian shares hit a four-and-a-half-year high.

World stocks as measured by the MSCI added 0.37 percent to 278.01—its highest since mid-2001.

In Tokyo, 10-year JGB futures fell 0.01 point to 138.72 ahead of an auction of 1.9 trillion yen of government bonds later on Thursday.

US stocks closed higher. The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 1.56 percent at 10,590.22.

The Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 1.98 percent to 2,138.23, and the S&P 500 gained 1.5 percent to 1,119.37 for its highest close in nearly three and a half years. *Reuters*



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November 30, 2004

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

TO ALL MEMBERS of PSSLA, Inc.:

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual Members' Meeting & Elections of PSSLA, Inc.** will be held on **January 15, 2005, 9:00 A.M. at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Q.C.**

In case you cannot personally attend, you can be represented by PROXY. Accomplish the Proxy Form and submit to the Corporate Secretary five (5) days before date of Meeting.

(Signed) **ATTY RAUL M BACALZO**
Corporate Secretary

OPEN PROXY FORM

Know All Men By These Presents:

The undersigned member, hereby nominates, constitutes and appoints _____ as PROXY to attend on behalf of the undersigned, the Annual Members' Meeting & Election on January 15, 2005, 9:00 A.M. at Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, QC. and at any adjournment or postponement thereof, and to vote the membership of said Association standing in the name of the undersigned with all the powers the undersigned would possess if personally present at such meeting with discretionary authority and discretion on the application of votes on the elections of Members of the Board of Trustees.

Should any matter, not known to the solicitor, come properly before the members which may require the vote of the undersigned, discretionary authority is hereby conferred upon to the PROXY to vote the membership of the undersigned in the manner which the PROXY deems fit.

This proxy revokes and supersedes any proxy or proxies the undersigned may have previously executed and shall be considered withdrawn where the undersigned personally registers with the Committee on Election before 9:00 A.M. of January 15, 2005 attends and votes during the Members' Meeting of the same date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned member has executed this Proxy this ____ day of _____ 20, ____ at _____.

_____
Signature Over Printed Name

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF

_____ _____

(PDI – December 10, 2004)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In consonance with R.A. 8976 otherwise known as the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000, the National Food Authority (NFA) as the implementing agency on iron fortified rice, wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on January 05, 2005 at 10:00 AM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City among all interested suppliers for the supply of THREE HUNDRED METRIC TONS (300 MT), IRON COATED RICE GRAIN PREMIX (FORTIFICANT) with an approved budget of Php 52M, packed in 25 kg multi-wall paper bag (strong enough to withstand handling). Detailed product specifications shall be included in the Terms of Reference (TOR). Delivery period at designated NFA Manila warehouse/s shall be not later than March 15, 2005 and with BUYER'S option for an early delivery.

All interested suppliers are required to submit price offers in Philippine Currency, as specified in the NFA Bid Form.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the approved budget of Php 52 M in the form of Cash, Cashier's and/or Manager's Check or an irrevocable L/C issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila.

List of Eligibility Requirements and Instruction to Bidders may be secured thru MR. TOMAS R. ESCAREZ, Assistant Department Manager and MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO, Division Manager, Department for Marketing Operations, 5th Flr., NFA Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, Telephone Nos. 712-1564, 743-8696 or 712-3341 Loc. 8513 starting December 10, 2004.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) and Bid Documents will likewise be available starting December 09, 2004 up to December 10, 2004 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) upon payment of a Php15,000.00 non-refundable fee.

The **Pre-Bidding** conference will be held on **December 22, 2004** at **10:00 AM** at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Submission of eligibility requirements, technical proposal and price offers will be between 8:00 AM to 9:55 AM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on **January 05, 2005. Opening of bids** will start at exactly **10:00 AM.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required or defect therein and accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Deputy Administrator and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – December 10 & 20, 2004)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **January 06, 2005** at **10:00 a.m.** at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila**, among all interested rice suppliers for the **supply of maximum 320,000 MT, 5% MOLSO, long grain white rice, 15% and 25% brokens of Thailand, Vietnam and/or China origin in 50 kilograms net capacity polypropylene bags** with an appropriated budget of Php 5.60B from corporate resources.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations for all specifications and all modes of payment otherwise, bids will be considered non-responsive. Price shall be quoted in US$ per MT, CFR, FO, one (1) safe port, one/two safe berths under the following payment terms:

a. Documents Against Payment (D/P), mandatory bid
b. Documents against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of one hundred eighty (180) days from B/L date, mandatory bid
c. Documents against Acceptance (D/A) or Deferred Payment with a tenor of:
   c.1 three hundred sixty (360) days from B/L date, optional bid
   c.2 seven hundred twenty (720) days from B/L date, optional bid

Arrival Period	Volume to be Offered (MT)
Not Later Than 28 February 2005	At least 50%
Not Later Than 15 April 2005	Balance

Government suppliers and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within **the last two (2) years (2003/2004) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded a maximum of 300,000 MT and 25,000 MT 5% MOLSO, respectively. New suppliers without any track record with NFA, may be awarded a maximum of 15,000 MT. However, suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/ liability prior 2003 are considered to have bad track records.** Vessels to be utilized should have a maximum load capacity of 15,000 MT.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT per specification.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 10% of the highest value offered quantity in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank. Bid bond can be converted to performance bond.

List of Eligibility Requirements maybe secured starting **10 December 2004** thru **MR. TOMAS R. ESCAREZ**, Assistant Department Manager and **MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO**, Division Chief III, **Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City with telephone numbers 712-1564; 742-4140; 743-8696; 711-7433; 740-1977; 712-1708; and 712-1572.**

The terms of reference and bid documents will be available from **December 10-29, 2004** (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P7,500.00

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **December 21, 2004** at **10:00 a.m.** at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.**

Submission of bids will be on January 06, 2005 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. Opening of bids** will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – December 10 & 17, 2004)

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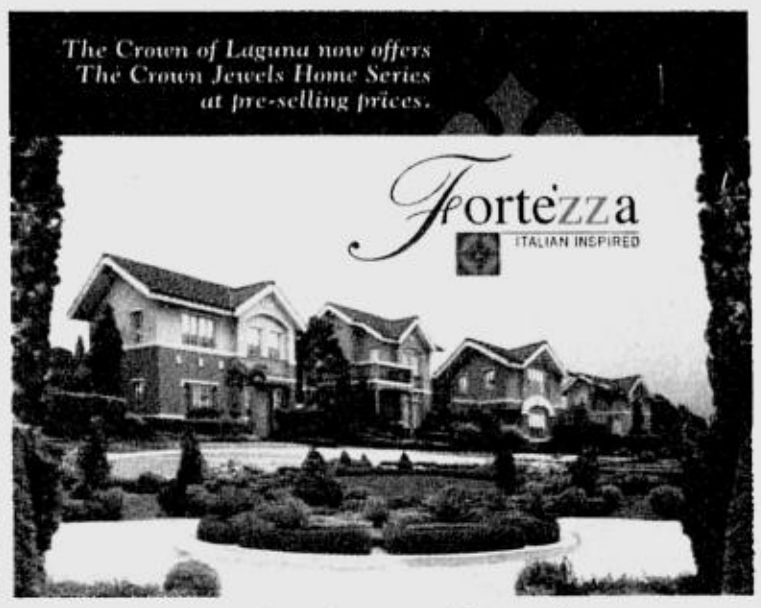

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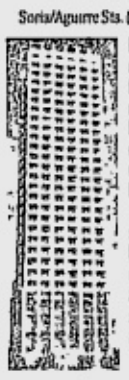

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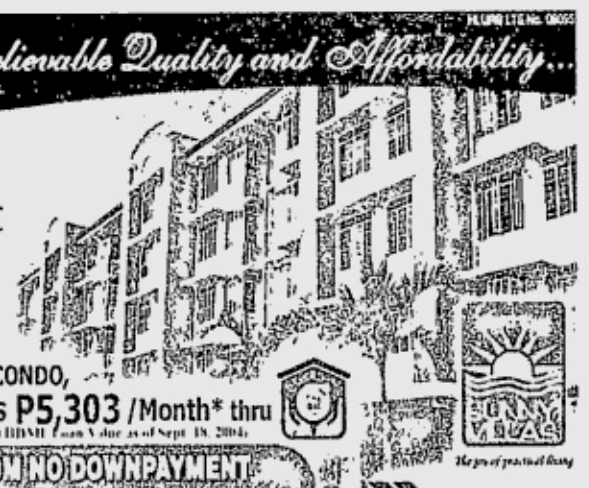

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In Loving Memory
on the Fifth Death Anniversary of

Teresa (Titang) Gomez Yuchengco

who peacefully joined her Creator on December 12, 1999.

Her husband, Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, and her family and loved ones request relatives and friends to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Mass will be offered at:

Teresa G. Yuchengco Chapel on Friday, December 10, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.
(Podium 4, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue)

DR. WASHINGTON ARAGON YAP

Our Beloved "Totong" of Palauig Zambales

Peacefully joined the Lord
on December 6, 2004 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Isabel Alves Yap**; children **Manolo** and **May, Stella** and **Roberto, Isagani** and **Lanie, Ma. Elisa** and **Danilo, John Nayel, Roberto** and **Noreen, Bella Marie, Abigail, Paul Clarence** and **Cynthia, Juanita** and **Ramon**; grandchildren, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Poblacion, Palauig, Zambales.

Interment will be on December 14, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM T. LORENZANA

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 9, 2004 at the age of 83

His loved ones:

Wife **Adeling Sadili**, their children **Willy** and **Nana, Dada** and **Mon Santiago, Popot** and **Agnes, Agnes** and **Elmer Lapeña**, and **Tonette** and **Ronnie Lee.**

Grandchildren: **Trina, Kyle, Rina, Mindy, Monchie, Mary Anne, Michael, Isabel, Lian, Mei Mei, Jeremy, Dindin, Agie, Trissy** and **Patti.**

Brothers and sisters: **Joe** and **Toots, Al** and **Rosie, Betty Abaya, Thelma** and **Manny Martirez, Dada, Dennis** and **Loida.**

request relatives friends and pious readers to join prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

THE AUGUSTINIAN SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF
SISTER EMILIA V. DEL SPIRITU SANTO, OSA
on DECEMBER 8, 2004 AT THE AGE OF 94
FUNERAL MASS WILL BE ON
DECEMBER 10, 2004 at 8:00 A.M.
AT THE LA CONSOLACION CONVENT CHAPEL
273 SANTOLAN ROAD, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
INTERMENT WILL FOLLOW AT THE LA LOMA CEMETERY
After the 8:00 A.M. Mass

JUANA MELO DAANTON

January 27, 1922 to December 5, 2004

She is survived by her husband **Eriberto**; sisters **Nicasia** and **Aniceta**; brothers **Julian** (†), **Teodulo** (†), **Ponciano** (†), **Romulo** and **Celedonio**; nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at Funeraria Sapinoso Premiere Chapel, Gen. E. Topacio St., Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, December 12, 2004 at the Melda Memorial Park, Tahimik St., Imus, Cavite after the 2:00 p.m. memorial service at Imus Unida Church.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLCI holds year-end time management workshop

THE CENTER for Leadership and Change Inc (CLCI), is conducting its premium time management public workshop entitled "***What Matters Most***" on Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the CLCI Training Room, 4/F Ateneo Professional Schools, Horacio V. de la Costa St., Makati. As the year 2004 gradually reaches to an end, professionals, entrepreneurs, young and old alike, are invited to attend this one-day workshop which CLCI proudly asserts is a "*Life Leadership and Time Management Workshop for the Entire Business of Living*". The workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Karen V. de la Cruz, licensed Franklin Covey facilitator. Interested parties may call John Lopez or Denise Mangiliman at Tel. 817-2726 local 116/123 or email them at john@clci.ph. CLCI is the authorized distributor for FranklinCovey products and services in the Philippines.

Pasko Na! Christmas concert

THE Jesuit Music Ministry in cooperation with the University of the Philippines Catholic Students Community (UP-CSC) presents Pasko Na!, a Christmas Concert featuring the Bukas Palad Music Ministry on Dec. 11, at the UP Theater Diliman, Quezon City, with a Matinee show at 3 in the afternoon and a Gala performance at 8 in the evening.

The Bukas Palad Music Ministry is well known for their hit liturgical

Songs such as Hindi Kita Malilimutan, Humayo't Ihayag, I Will Sing Forever, Sa Yo Lamang, and Tanging Yaman. The choir has already produced more than ten albums to date and performed in concerts all over the Philippines and in the United States. The concert which will feature songs taken from the group's album Pasko Na, aims to bring hope to our wounded hearts and to enliven our souls, preparing us all for the coming of Christ. Himig ng Hangin, A Christmas Praise, Pasko Na, Gloria and Noong Paskong Una are just some of the songs which the group will be performing accompanied by a 16 piece orchestra under the musical direction of Mel Villena.

Proceeds of the Pasko Na! Concert will be used to fund the spiritual and leadership programs of the UP-CSC, thus, benefiting the student activities of all the religious organizations in the UP Campus Ministry. This will also provide for the needs of the scholars and students supported by the different organizations. Tickets (P500, 200, 100) will be available soon at the UP Parish Office and all Jesuit Communication outlets in Sonolux Bldg. and the Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo, SM North EDSA (Main Building, Lower Ground Floor), SM Megamall (Fifth Level, Bridgeway), Robinson's Manila (Level 2), Robinson's Galleria (Level 2). For ticket reservations, email info@bukaspalad.com, call Jesuit Music Ministry at 4261023, or text 0917-8274454/0917-7939006

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Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc.

INTRODUCTION

Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has continuously lauded the 8 million plus Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), who contributed more than $7.5 billion annually through remittances, for their invaluable contribution to the country's economic growth and sustainable development.

On the other hand, the more than 475,000 Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) continue to provide the much-needed boost to the Philippine economy. Despite the prevailing economic slowdown worldwide, SMEs continue to provide jobs and create wealth.

Recent data from the National Statistics Office revealed that remittances from OFWs are not only the driving force behind consumer spending but it also spurred the development of microbusinesses that now account for over 90 percent of all businesses in the Philippines.

The government has expressed concern for the welfare and benefit of the country's OFWs or "modern-day heroes" as well as in helping and supporting the development of the SMEs which are also called the "engines of Philippine economy."

Thus, the **Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc.** was established in response to the government's concern to the OFW and SME families.

What is the POFW-SMENFI?

The **Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc. (POFW-SMENFI)** is a non-stock, non-profit organization founded by former OFWs and OFW and SME welfare advocates which was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission *(SEC Reg. No. A200202450)* on February 14, 2002.

What is the vision of POFW-SMENFI?

To be the most productive center of OFW and SME families in the Philippines by providing job, livelihood, investment and business opportunities; and be recognized as a role model for public service

What are the main objectives of POFW-SMENFI?

1. To help protect the rights and promote the welfare of the OFW and SME families;
2. To conceptualize and launch viable reintegration projects for OFWs;
3. To organize, sponsor and conduct expositions, seminars, workshops, trainings, and study and research programs to help upgrade the knowledge of the OFW and SME families;
4. To make the OFW families productive members or entrepreneurs of the community;
5. To help improve the economic condition of the OFW and SME families whose living condition are below standard;
6. To initiate and organize fundraising activities to finance the various projects of the foundation;
7. To receive financial contributions, donations and grants from local and foreign sources for the implementation of the foundation's objectives;
8. To organize and strengthen linkages, both local and international, for OFW and SME families' concern;
9. To provide legal, medical and dental, welfare, technical, financial and other assistance to OFW and SME families in cooperation with local and foreign government agencies, private corporations and non-government organizations;
10. To publish any form of publication and produce a television/radio program for the purpose of effectively disseminating information regarding the foundation's various projects and opportunities as well as the latest government policies that will affect the OFW and SME families;
11. To coordinate and cooperate closely with the local and foreign government agencies in carrying out the objectives of the foundation;
12. To purchase, acquire, sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise deal in real and personal property as may be necessary or useful to carry out the objectives of the foundation;
13. To acquire or obtain from any local or foreign government agency or authority, national, provincial, municipal or otherwise, or any corporation, company or partnership or person, such charter, contacts, franchise, privileges, exemption, licenses and concessions as may be conducive to any of the objectives of the foundation; and
14. To establish and operate offices nationwide and abroad to carry out the foundation's objectives.

Who can become members of the POFW-SMENFI?

* Overseas Filipino workers (Migrant workers who are engaged in remunerated activities in a state and are considered to be temporary residents thereof; the immigrants who have assumed or are in the process of assuming legal permanent residency status; and the undocumented overseas Filipinos);
* Future, vacationing and former OFWs;
* Husband or wife and children of an OFW;
* Small and medium entrepreneurs;
* Husband or wife and children of an SME; and
* Officers and members of non-government organizations concerned with the OFW and SME families.

What are the benefits and types of assistance that the POFW-SMENFI can provide?

* Local job placement;
* FREE and subsidized seminars on home-based business, agriculture business and aqua-business;
* FREE legal, medical and dental services;
* Investment and business management consultancy; and
* Research, marketing, advertising and promotion consultancy

How can one become a member of the POFW-SMENFI?

If qualified, a member must pay an annual membership fee of P50 only. He will be given an ID card and an updated list of service partners of the foundation as well as the POFW-SMENFI Monthly News Update

Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc.

SEC Registration No. A 200202450

"Empowering the OFW and SME Families Through Information, Opportunities and Benefits"

POFW-SMENFI Head Office:
No. 53 18th Avenue, Murphy
Cubao, Quezon City, Metro Manila
Philippines 1109
Tel. Nos.(632) 912-5803; (632) 437-1660
Fax No. (632) 427-1659
E-mail address: gearcom@tri-isys.com
website: http://www.pamilyangofw-sme.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

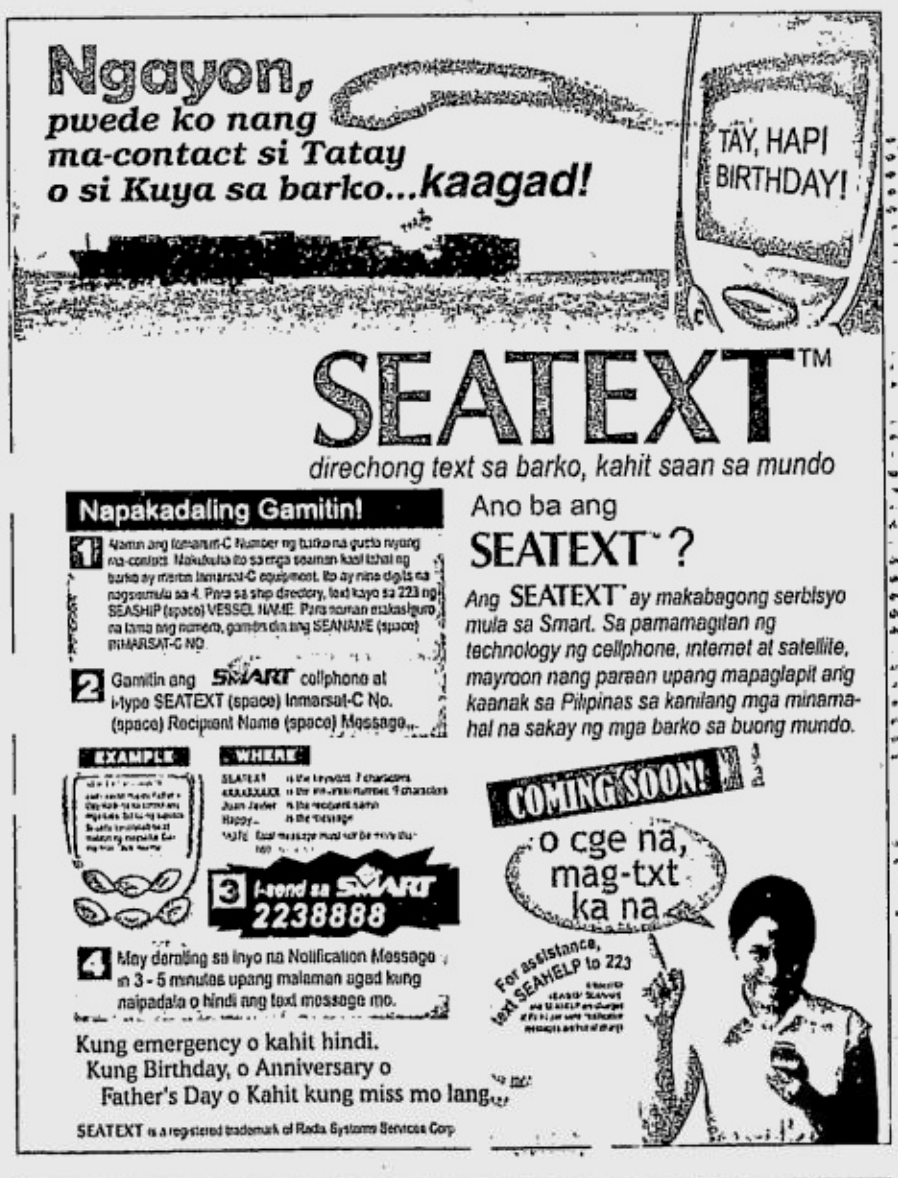
Please check if you are:

( ) OFW ( ) EX-OFW ( ) OFW relative _____
( ) SME ( ) SME relative _____

Name:_____
(Surname) (First Name) (Middle Name)
Date and place of birth:_____
Spouse's name: _____
Spouse's job/profession, company and address:
_____
_____
Children's name, date, and place of birth
(start with eldest)
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
Metro Manila address and contact nos.:_____
_____
Provincial address and contact nos.: _____
_____
Highest educational attainment and school:
_____
_____
_____
Name of employer and address *(if OFW)*:
_____
_____
Products/services of interest:
_____
_____
Assistance needed: _____
_____
_____

_____
(Signature over printed name)

_____
(Date of application)



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BUSINESS

Sun Cellular seen to break even in '05

Clarissa S. Batino

SUN CELLULAR of the Gokongwei-owned Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc. sees improved finances starting 2005 when earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or Ebitda, are expected to break even.

According to Lance Gokongwei, president of Digitel Mobile, the company is scheduled to break even in terms of Ebitda in early 2005. In 2006, the company is expected to break even on earnings before interest and taxes are paid, he said.

The wireless unit of listed Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. should be out of the red by 2007, he added.

According to analysts, a positive Ebitda is as important an indicator as net income because it reflects a company's capacity to pay its debt. Ebitda represents the amount of cash generated by the business and those funds are used to pay obligations.

Gokongwei said Digitel, the parent firm, had always been Ebitda positive.

"As you gain more subscribers, the assets grow in value also," said Gokongwei. Sun Cellular, Digitel's wireless brand launched in March 2003, had breached the 1-million subscriber mark in November.

The top official said Sun Cellular should end the year with about 1.2 million customers. Company officials expect subscribers to increase to at least 2 million by the end of 2005.

Gokongwei said the wireless subsidiary was targeting an annual growth of 10 to 15 percent, a modest level compared to its competitors.

Smart Communications Inc., a wholly-owned unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., had been growing at about 40 percent. Second-rank Globe Telecom Inc. grew about 20 percent in the third quarter.

"A 10 to 15 percent growth a year is a sustainable business model for us," Gokongwei said. "We are not Smart and Globe. They are huge companies."

Contrary to perception that the Gokongwei mobile brand had been moving too slow, Gokongwei said that Sun Cellular was growing as fast, if not faster, than the other players when they started out.

"Ten years ago, this industry was nothing ... It had since grown into a P120-billion industry," said the Digitel Mobile executive. "We believe there is room for players like us to grow."

As of the third quarter, listed Digitel reported that net loss swelled to P1.08 billion against P722.8 million a year ago due to financing costs incurred by the wireless business.

From January to September, operating loss actually narrowed to P117.2 million against P209.9 million a year ago. Financing charges this year, however, increased to P1.03 billion from P836.5 million in the first three quarters of 2003.

The outstanding balance of Digitel's financing for its mobile operations stood at P12.68 billion at the end of September, up from P10.08 billion at the end of 2003.

Digitel would spend $100 million in the coming year to expand the coverage of Sun Cellular.

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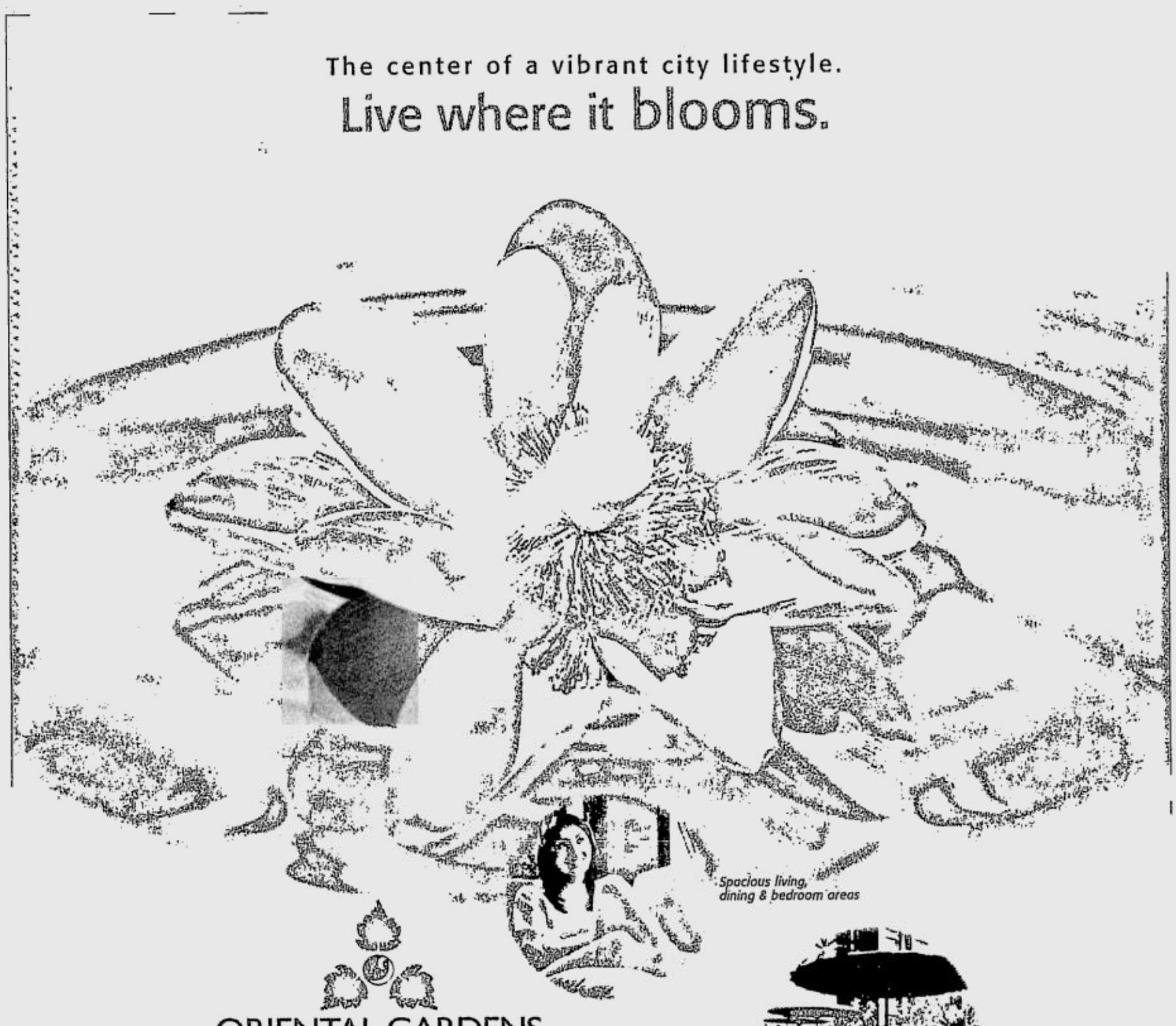
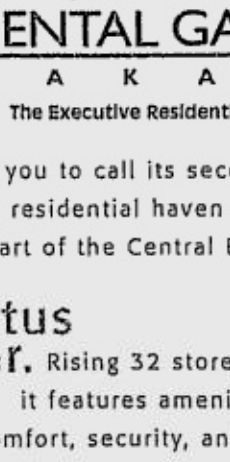


Spacious living, dining & bedroom areas



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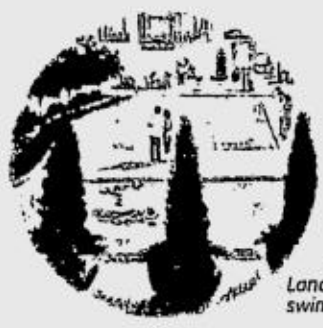

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$35-M RP wind farm is 1st of its kind in Asean

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES has taken another step in promoting renewable energy with the signing of a greenhouse gas emission reductions purchase agreement involving a $35-million wind farm project in Bangui Bay, Ilocos Norte—the first of its kind in the Philippines and in Asean.

The Danish International Development Agency (Danida) shouldered 90 percent of the project cost.

In a statement yesterday, the World Bank lauded the project as the first in Asean under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol.

Joachim von Amsberg, WB Country Director for the Philippines, said: "This is a very special initiative, and a good example of how global partnerships on environment really come to life. It is also an exciting example of how the Philippines can be part of and benefit from a new dimension of new global opportunities."

Amsberg said he hoped this would only be the first of a series of emission reductions purchase agreements in the country.

Under the program, the certified emission reductions (CERs) generated by the project will be purchased by the Prototype Carbon Fund (PCF), a public/private partnership made up of six governments and 17 private companies.

The partnership authorizes the World Bank, as trustee, to purchase CERs from projects on behalf of the participants of the fund.

The Philippines is hard pressed to look for ways to improve air quality after the World Bank published the Air Quality Monitor in 2002, which said that air pollution in the Philippines was causing serious health problems and lower productivity, severely affecting the Filipinos' quality of life.

Aboitiz to raise anew P367M for debt payment

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures (AEV) , the public holding firm of the Aboitiz family, said yesterday it will raise another P367 million from the issuance of redeemable preferred shares to refinance maturing debt and fund future power projects.

With the second issuance, AEV's total preferred share offering this month will amount to P1.87 billion, raising enough to refinance its P1 billion maturing preferred shares and fund other projects.

AEV earlier raised P1.5 billion from its first preferred share offering last Monday. Banking sources said the second issuance was to accommodate excess demand from the first preferred share offering.

In a disclosure, AEV said it signed a second underwriting agreement with First Metro Investment Corp. as issue manager and BPI Capital, PCI Capital, BDO Capital, Multinational Investment Bancorporation and RCBC Capital as underwriters for the additional issuance of 36.7 million non-voting, non-participating, non-convertible, cumulative, reissuable and redeemable preferred shares at P10 apiece. The shares, like the first issuance, will be redeemable over a period of five years.

These shares will be denominated as series C which has a fixed dividend rate and series D which has a floating dividend rate. The rates for the floating series will be determined quarterly.

AEV said proceeds of the issuance will be used for refinancing and will also finance various power projects and its subsidiaries.

It aims to issue the shares on Dec. 13.

AEV earlier said it is earmarking P500 million for possible investments in power projects, an official of the company said.

AEV vice president Luis Miguel Aboitiz declined to name however the planned power projects.

AEV has an existing P1 billion preferred share issue which will expire early next year. It will use the bulk of the proceeds from the preferred share offering to refinance this maturing debt.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Dream bags and gems

"MARGARITA in Cranberry" is a mix of candy-colored crystals.

ASK any fashionista what she is dreaming of these days and chances are it's a Wynn Wynn Ong jewelry piece or a Bea Valdes bag from the recently launched 2005 Dreamstyle Collection of Firma in Greenbelt 3.

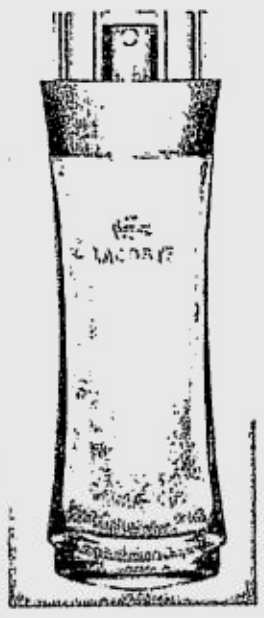
Ong has designed jewelry for Lane Crawford in Hong Kong and for a show in Zurich. Her new collection showcases fusion—a whimsical and tongue-in-cheek interplay between the natural and the manmade, the rare with the readily available.

DREAM/ C2

"BIRTH" cuff in natural black coral with a handsculpted vermeil design, a carved red coral turtle, and faceted citrine "eggs"

IN THIS ISSUE

BOLD holiday sparkle /E2



SWEET n' sassy beauty flavors /F1

ERMENEGILDO Zegna's class and style /G1

RETRO glamour for Christmas /H2

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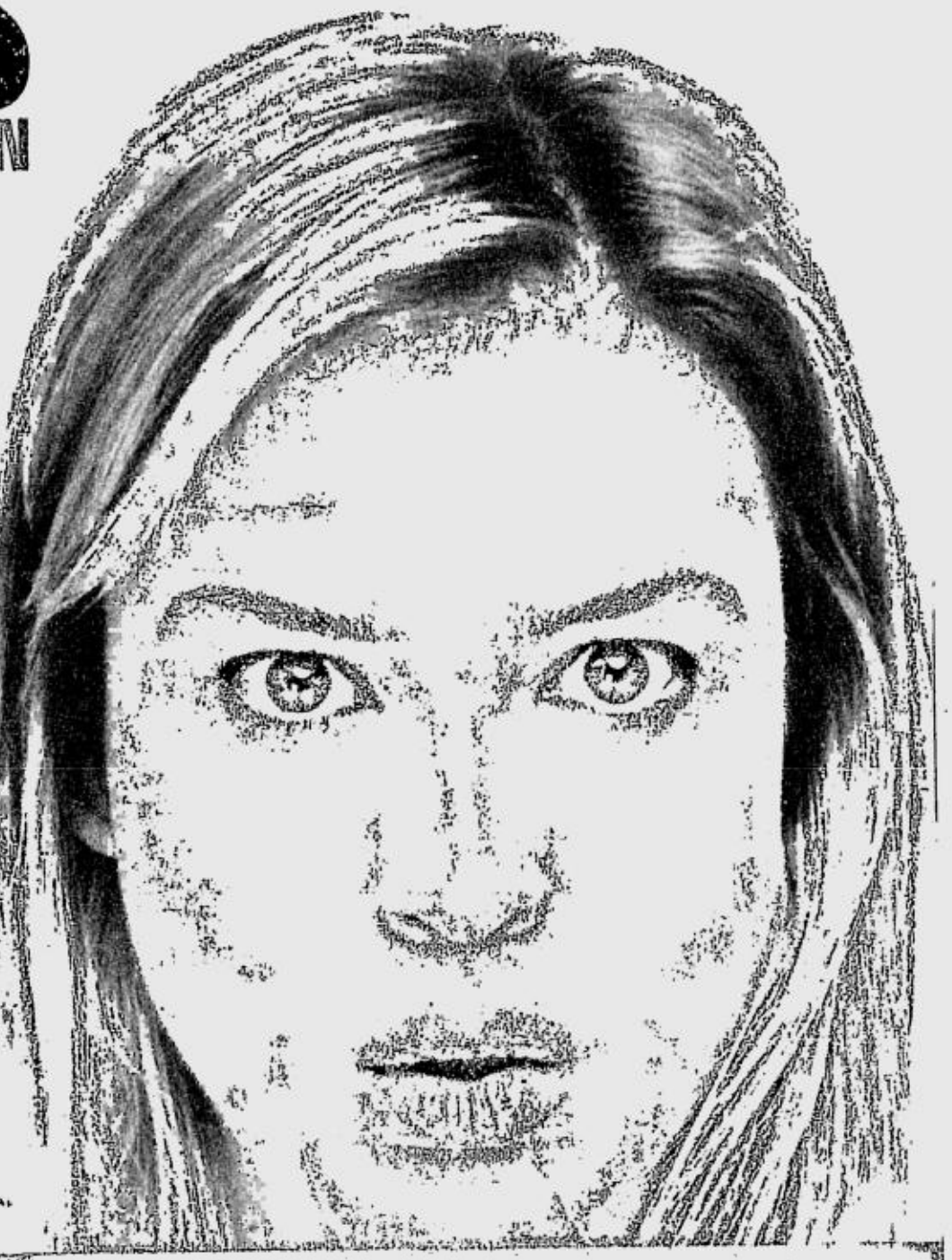

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Im Not In Love	10CC	ImNotInlove
Nobody Does It Better	Carly Simon	NobodyDoes
We'll Be Together	Sting & Annie Lenox	Well2geder
What The World Needs Now	Dionne	WhatDWorld
Like A Virgin	Madonna	LikeVirgin
I Believe In A Thing Called Love	The Darkness	IBelieveIn
Mr and Mrs. Jones	Van Morrison	MrsJones
My Lovin'	En Vogue	MyLovin
Woman	Neneh Cherry	Woman2
Say What You Want	Texas	SayWatUWant
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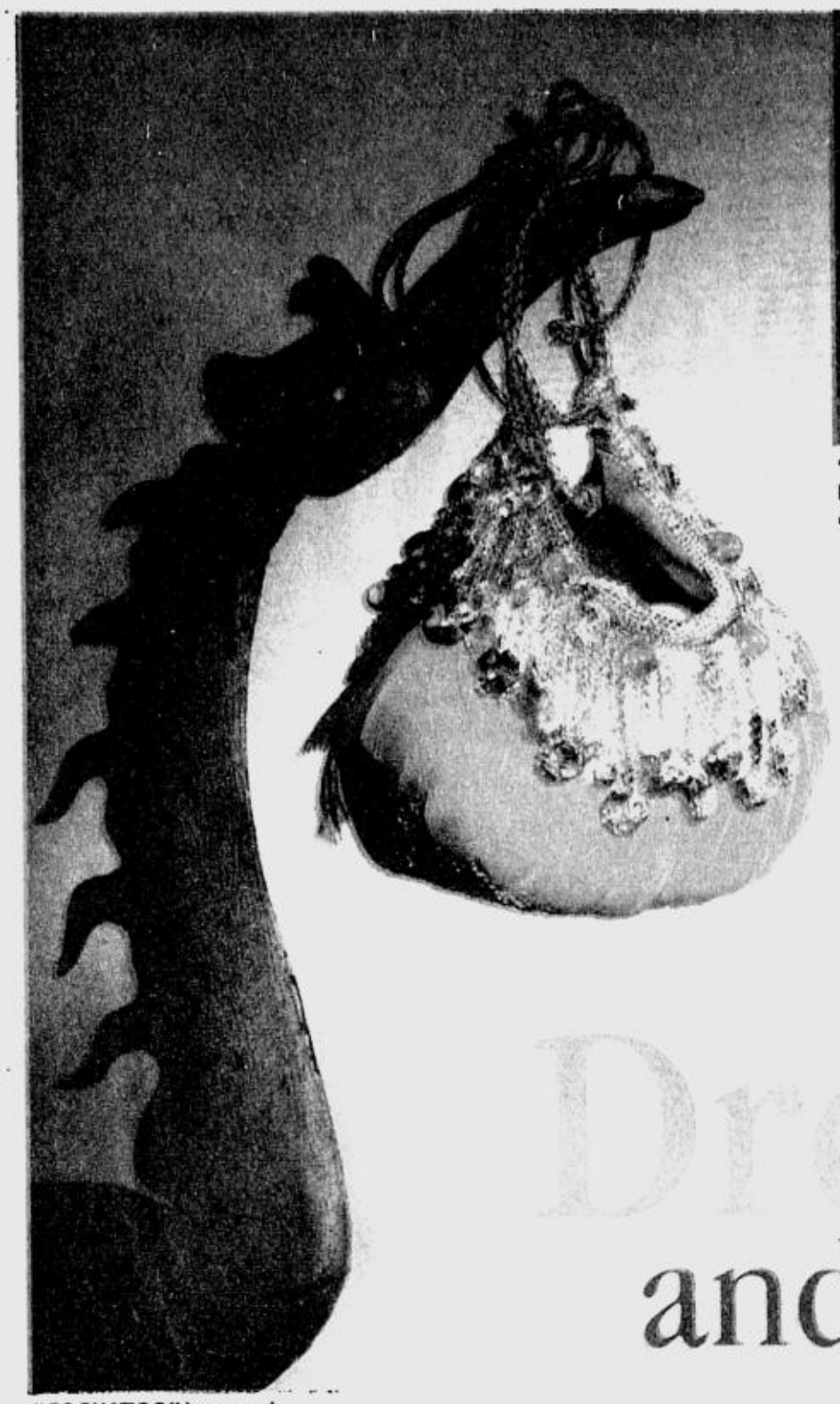
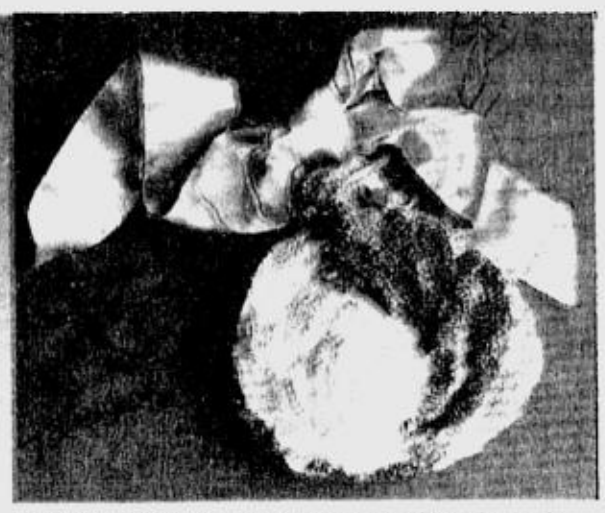
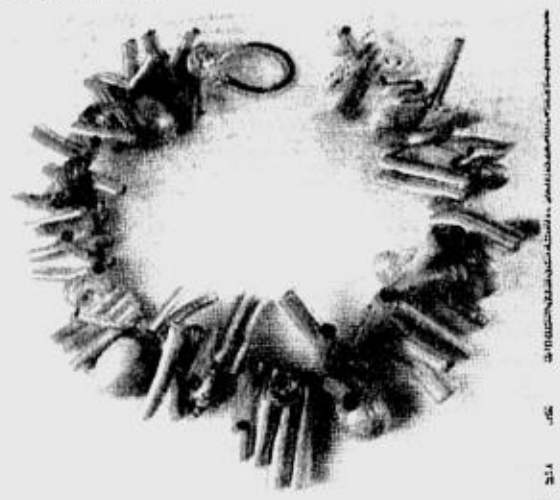


"COCKATOO" in tangerine



"PETITE Chou Chou," a little pouch of sequins and beads, is one of Bea's earliest designs, coming in a burst of colored crystals.



"AUTUMN in Osaka" cuff of natural black coral with carved agate and vermeil blossoms, baroque freshwater pearls and smoky quartz drops

"AMENOA" necklace of Hawaiian coral with turquoise nuggets and chrysoberyl

Dream bags and gems

From page C1

The pieces integrate high-grade, high-impact resin in faux ivory, coral, tortoise shell, antique stoneware, snakeskin, crocodile, gnarled wood and lacquer finishes with gold, silver, copper and other metals to form organic shapes that celebrate the gems that are the centerpieces of each work.

Her trademark, of course, remains: an extremely limited number of one-off pieces per collection, the use of rare or newly discovered gems, a preference for uncommon cuts, and an unusual combination of textures, colors and elements.

In one piece, a *kamagong* cuff is the foundation for which a large tourmaline cylinder is tethered with rose-colored gold. In another, a collar of cobalt blue Yunnan glass beads becomes the base from which a slender circle of old ivory and, below it, a five-inch long antique agate piece, hangs.

In yet another, the tips of delicate black Indonesian coral branches drip with faceted citrines that flash with fire and light.

A favorite piece is an 18k gold brooch in the shape of a blazing comet. In it, a large Australian baroque pearl is trailed by a hand-sculpted tail studded with yellow sapphires. A carved coral monkey is perched on it. When one looks closely one can actually see its tentative smile. Wynn Wynn fittingly named it "When Monkeys Dream."

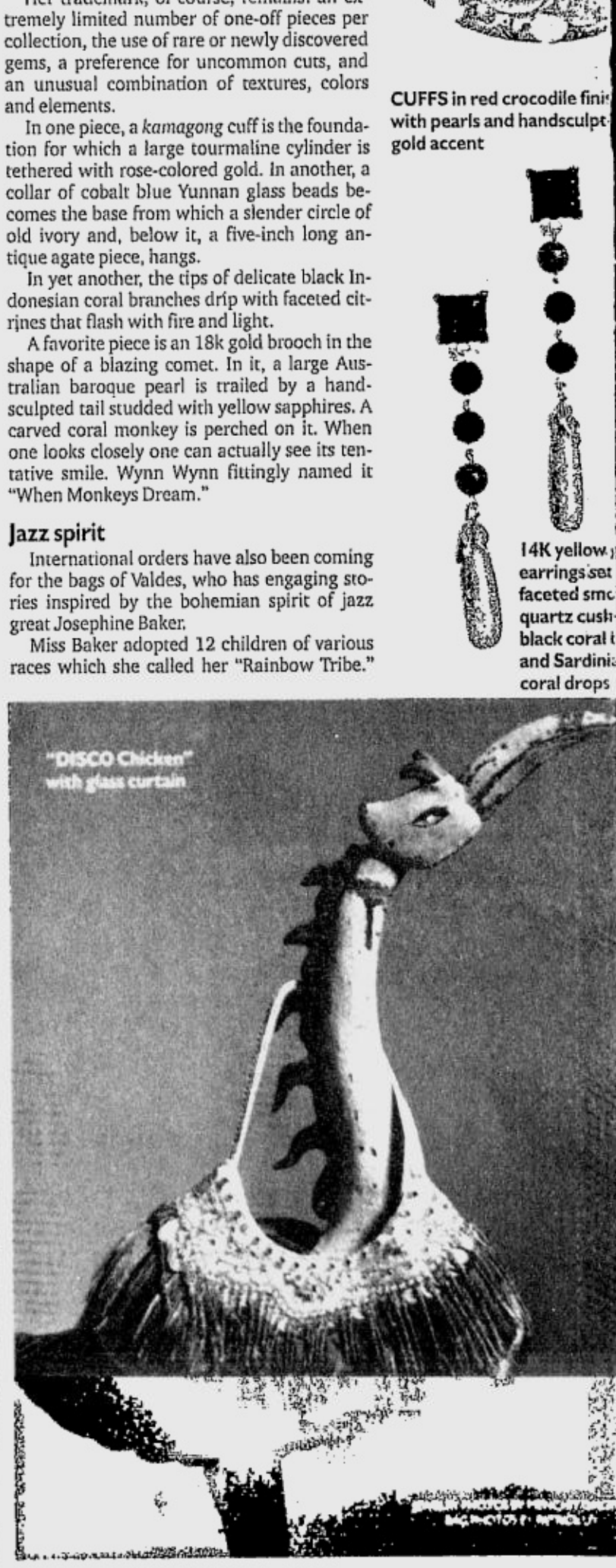
Jazz spirit

International orders have also been coming for the bags of Valdes, who has engaging stories inspired by the bohemian spirit of jazz great Josephine Baker.

Miss Baker adopted 12 children of various races which she called her "Rainbow Tribe."

CUFFS in red crocodile fini with pearls and handsculpt gold accent

14K yellow earrings set faceted smc quartz cush black coral and Sardini coral drops



"DISCO Chicken" with glass curtain

Canon

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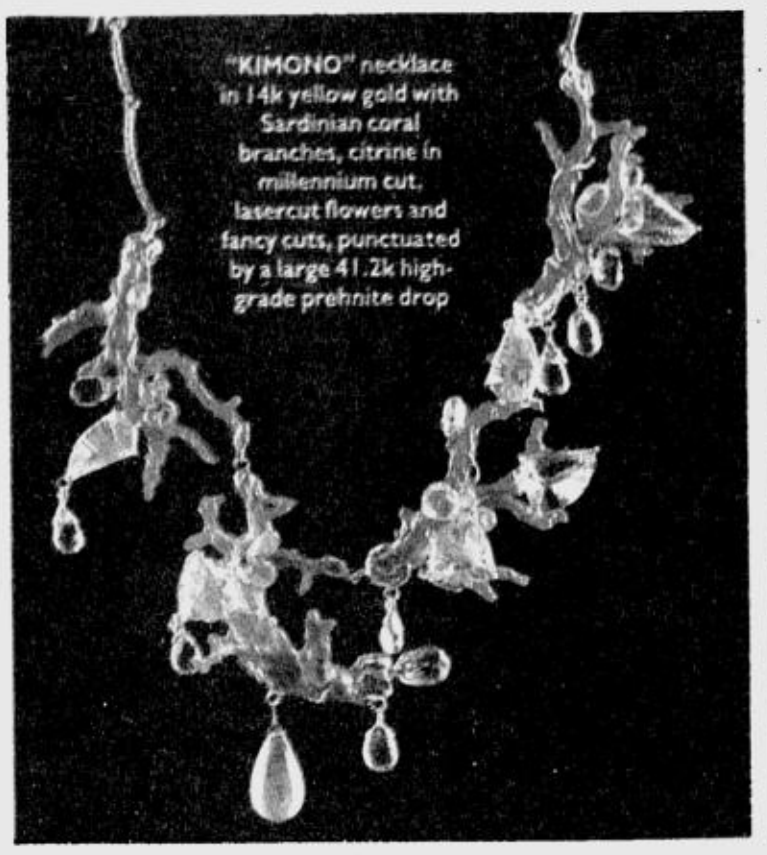
"ZOU Zou Mardigras," rendered in jewel tones with a tail of crystals and mini chandelier drops, is made of over 50 different components to render its unique gradation.



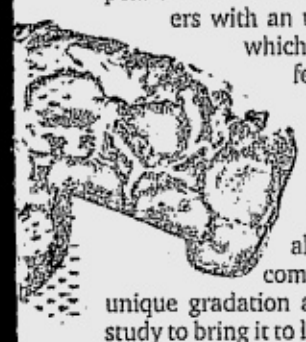
"PAPITOU Lavender," using tumbled aquamarine stones and unusual components, is one of Bea's more experimental pouches.

HIGH-GRADE resin cuffs with gemstones: Snakeskin-finished cuffs with onyx, pearls, smoky quartz and turquoise; Sung dynasty bronzeware-finished cuffs with aquamarine and sky-blue topaz; faux tortoiseshell cuffs with faceted "harlequin" Russian amber and smoky topaz

Bea has taken up the same theme of "chasing the rainbow" for her exquisitely handcrafted bags, each of which takes from three to eight weeks to finish, as beading is carefully done a millimeter at a time.

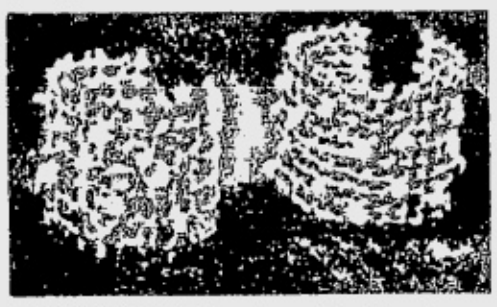
"Petite Chou Chou" is a little pouch of copper sequins and beads, finished off with a flirty ombre ribbon. "Chocolate Dandie," inspired by the 1924 Broadway play of the same name, is a delicious concoction of dark and milk chocolate beads with a three-ring handle.

"Peacock Kiss" is a stunner with its multi-tiered peacock feather patterns carefully layered with crystals. Another bird to join the flock is "Cockatoo" in tangerine and electric blue versions. One has a collier with subtle shades of orange and pale blue crystals while the other is festooned with lustrous grey pearls. Both share a pedigree of vintage feathers with an undercoat of fine beading which will show when their feathers are ruffled.



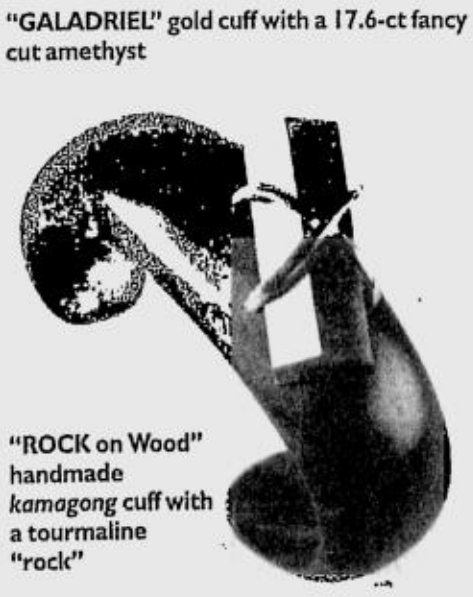
"Zou Zou Mardigras," rendered in jewel tones with a tail of crystals and chandelier drops, is the most complex creature of all, using over 50 different components to render its unique gradation and four weeks of careful study to bring it to life.

The 2005 Dreamstyle Collections of Wynn Wynn Ong and Bea Valdes are available exclusively at Firma, G/F Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center Makati City. Call 7574009 or e-mail firma2@vasia.com



HANDSCULPTED latticework gold cuffs with natural freshwater Indian pearls and emerald-cut sky blue topaz

"GALADRIEL" gold cuff with a 17.6-ct fancy cut amethyst



"ROCK on Wood" handmade *kamagong* cuff with a tourmaline "rock"

"HUNGER" coral branch brooch with handsculpted gold octopus, 58-ct lemon quartz drop and gray seed pearls

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Gifts of luxury

MINI Noé bag in monogram canvas

LOUIS Vuitton offers gift ideas that will help make Christmas truly memorable.

Women will welcome the Mini Noé Bag, a smaller version of the popular Petit Noe. The pouch bag has a modern, ultra-feminine shape, perfect for nights on the town.

The Tambour Lovely Pink watch is an appropriate gift for young women with its pink mother-of-pearl face with a monogram flower in the center. It is matched with a feminine marshmallow monogram Vernis wide strap.

Women will likely find irresistible the monogram and heart charm pendant earrings in yellow and white gold and pearls.

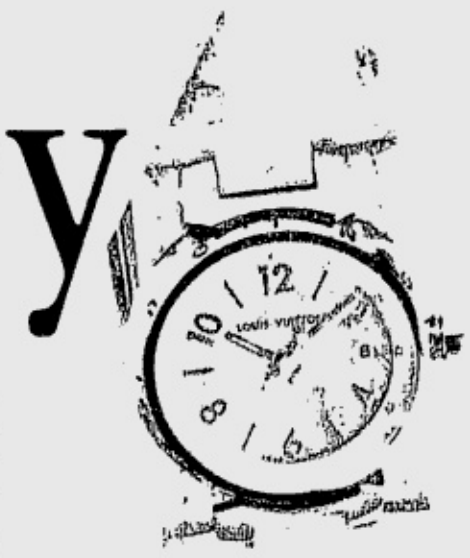
For the men, Louis Vuitton has the Tambour LV Cup Automatic Regatta watch. The chronograph offers all additional regatta functions, making it ideal for sailing. It comes with the first Louis Vuitton steel bracelet that reinterprets the Damier motif while playing with subtle links, either polished or brushed.

Men will welcome the Kasbek, the first tote bag for men in the Taiga line. Also for men are cufflinks with an LV engraving of a padlock on one side and a key on the other.

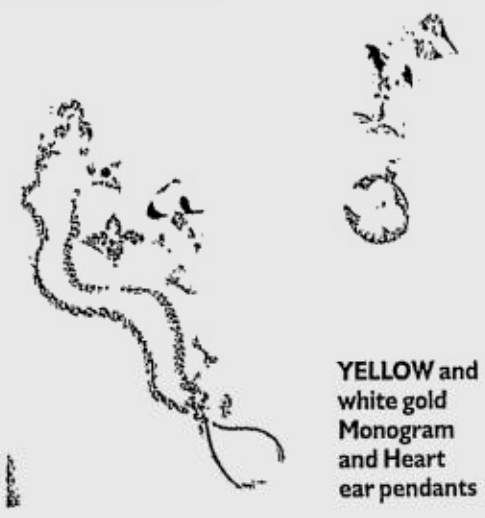
Louis Vuitton has other gift ideas for both men and women. The Monogram Multicolore Photo Holder is a fun, practical photo holder that is portable allowing the carrying of snapshots everywhere. The Studded Agenda Pen is available in all the colors of the Multicolore canvas. It comes in blue, tangerine, marshmallow, fuchsia and olive. The agenda pen is available in ballpoint or graphite pencil.

For the jet-setter, Louis Vuitton presents the Europe City Guide 2004. The sixth edition of the Louis Vuitton City Guide it offers information on 34 European cities, and carries at least 7,000 addresses.

In the Philippines, Louis Vuitton is located at the G/F Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 7560637 or visit www.louisvuitton.com.

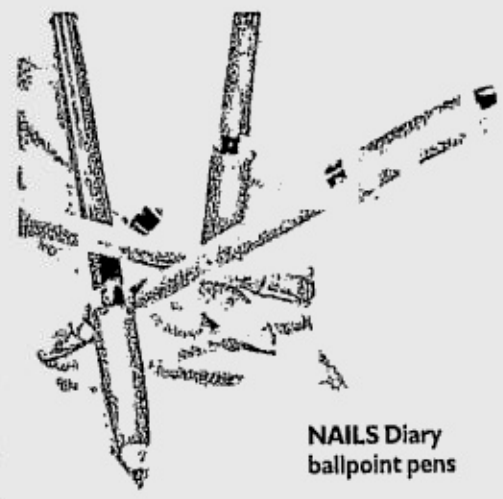

TAMBOUR Lovely Pink watch

FOUR Windows Picture Holder in monogram multicolored canvas


YELLOW and white gold Monogram and Heart ear pendants

KASBEK tote bag in Taiga leather

SILVER cadenas and key cufflinks


NAILS Diary ballpoint pens

TAMBOUR LV Cup Automatic Regatta watch in steel bracelet; Tambour Medium Quartz in steel bracelet

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DIAPHANE Chrono
"Twelve on Fire"

DIAPHANE
Chrono
"Rainstorm"

Cold Storage

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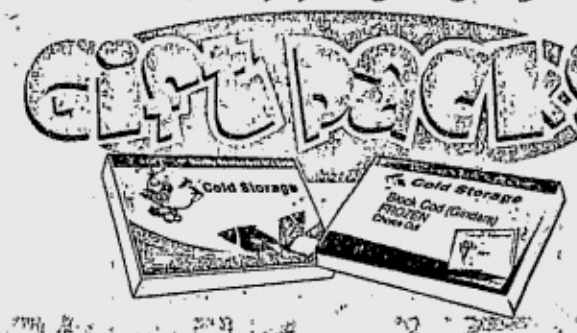

2kls Norwegian Salmon P900

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2kls/pack Unagi Whole with 4 pcs. Unagi Sachet P1900

1kl Black Cod/ Norwegian Salmon with 2 pcs. Unagi Sachet P1300

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2kls Blanched Shrimp P680

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The truth about 'chronos'

DIAPHANE Chrono "Skyrider"
with aluminum band

OLYMPIC Diaphane Chrono
Athens 2004 "Orizontas" with
leather strap

DIAPHANE Navigator "Take
Flight" with aluminum band

THIS Christmas, Swatch presents the Diaphane. It is Swiss made with quality designation protected by law and applied only to watches that contain mechanisms assembled, installed, started, regulated and controlled in Switzerland.

A Swatch Diaphane Chrono(graph) is a watch with a stopwatch function. This additional mechanism makes it possible to measure and record short times. By clicking on the push buttons, the hands of the chronograph (seconds, minutes, hours) can be started, stopped, or reset to zero. The tachometer dial on the face of a chronograph is used to measure speed in kilometers/miles per hour.

The Swatch Diaphane Automatic is a mechanical watch that does not need a battery: the movement of your arms powers the main springs of the mechanism.

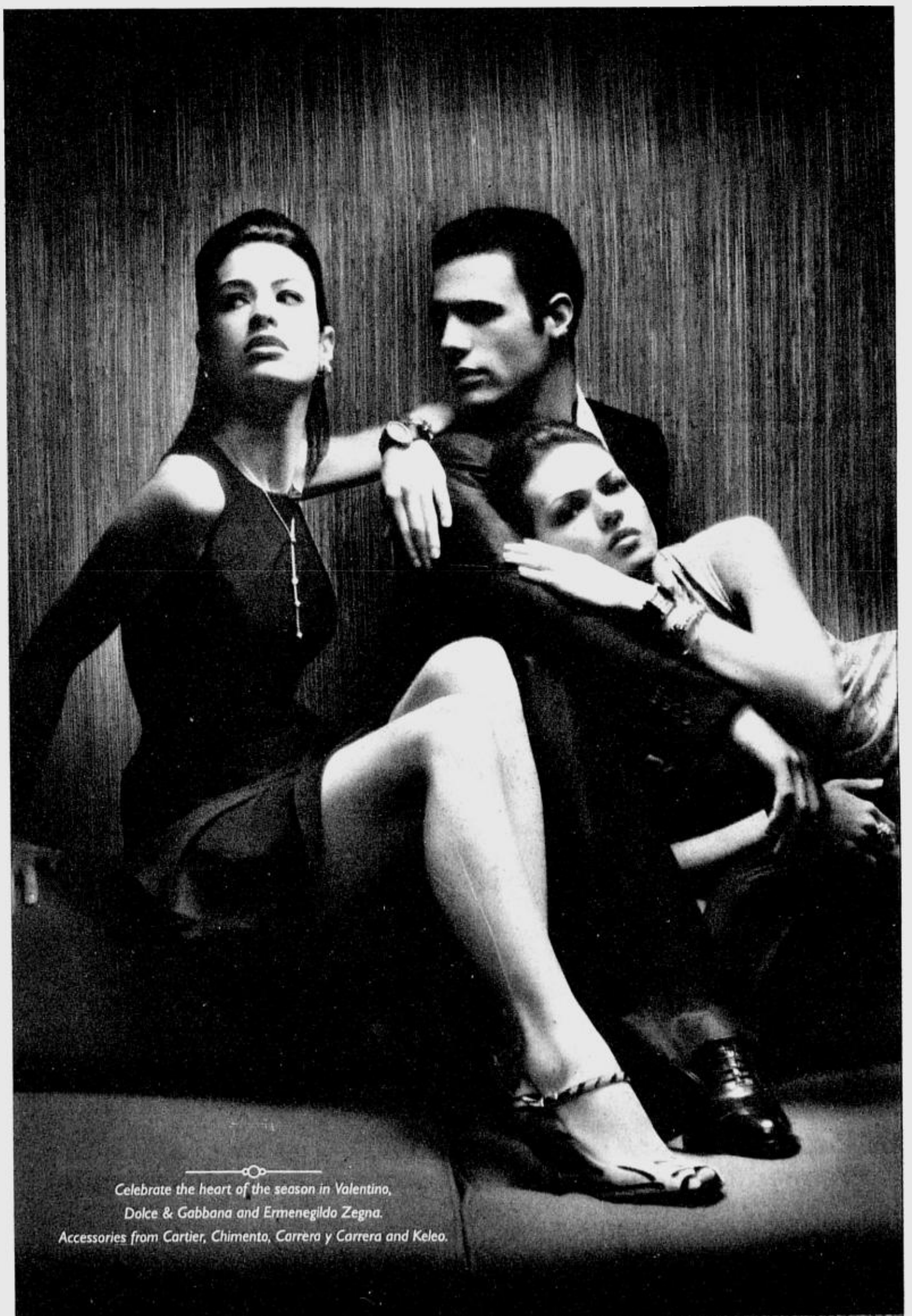
Swatch Diaphane watches are water-resistant to 30 meters/100 feet and are shockproof as well. Their prices range from P4,500 to P6,500.

Swatch Diaphane watches are available at Swatch Studios, Swatch Kiosks and Gift Gate stores.

Swatch is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc.

DIAPHANE Chrono "Wayfarer"
with aluminum band

DIAPHANE Chrono
"Firestorm"



A Season of Grace
Rustan's
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Timing is everything

Timepieces are some of the best gifts to give this festive season. They come well appreciated by both men and women, and with the proliferation nowadays of varied styles, they allow the watch wearer to customize a piece to suit his or her personality and lifestyle.

Because of the varied selections at watch specialty stores like Time Depot, the odds are slim of two customers buying exactly the same model.

At Time Depot, the Philippines' foremost retailer of technologically proficient timepieces, internationally renowned brands of sports-specific, techno watches sit side by side with supremely fashionable finds at attractive prices. Here are some of them.

Imbued with understated elegance, Alfex is the perfect watch for women who dare to be different or live life by their own rules. NafNaf, featuring multiple options with its selection of colorful dials and stainless steel bands or dainty leather bracelets, is likewise a worthy choice. The Nautica Pink Clipper that's simple yet unique and elegant or any of the sexy new cK watches would also make a flattering statement.

cK Endless features precise ETA Swiss quartz movement, tempered mineral crystal, silver-tone hand, polished stainless steel case and bracelet. cK Clasp is a highly-original watch which does up like a belt, while the cK Dress XL embodies techno-precision.

Those with funkier tastes will be delighted with the Marc Ecko "Sexy Cording," a classic analog with polished silver case, leather laced cuff and small round dial.

For casual teens, Baby G in pastel hues and pearl finish bands is a perfect option. Check out the Baby G 10th-anniversary models featuring drawings of hibiscus flowers in their rivets and band rings.

The serious outdoor enthusiasts will appreciate a Casio Edifice Chronograph. The color accent of the second hand and the tachymeter marking on the bezel give the Edifice Choronograph a distinctively sporty look.

Whether one is racing for time while engaging in sports or rushing to the office, one can find the miles per hour by simply rotating the tachymeter to target the exact speed, then set the elapsed timer to pinpoint the distance covered.

Function and fashion combine in the Casio Futurist, which features useful digital functions like dual time, alarm, and stopwatch and comes with EL backlight for easy reading in the dark.

Another good sports watch choice is Suunto, one of the most desired sports instrument brands in the world. Go for the Suunto X9, the flagship model in the cross sports range which packs a GPS, compass, chronograph, altimeter and barometer in one configuration.

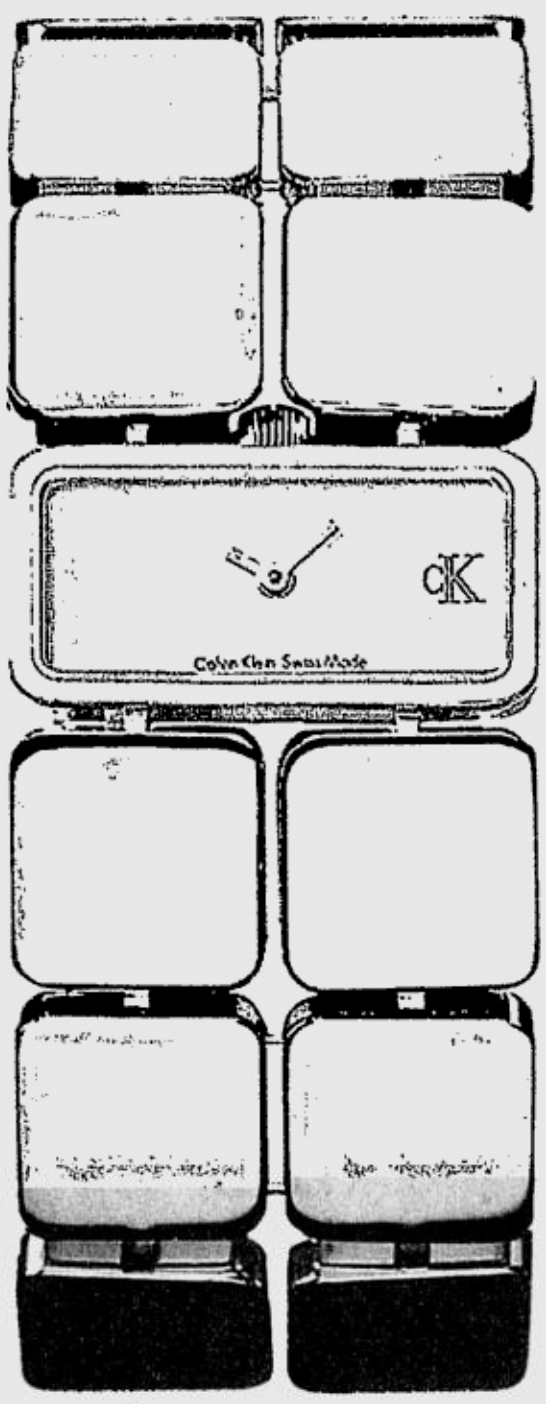
For the mariner, there's Suunto Regatta or M9 to deliver useful navigational information. Diving buffs are advised to look for screw-down crowns and casebacks and extreme water resistance. For golf buffs, a handy companion would be the Suunto G3, which lets them concentrate on improving their game.

Nautica watches are likewise sporty in dimensions, ruggedly sleek and ideal for the great outdoors. They come in stainless steel bracelet or black leather strap styles, big steel case, large crown and chronograph displays

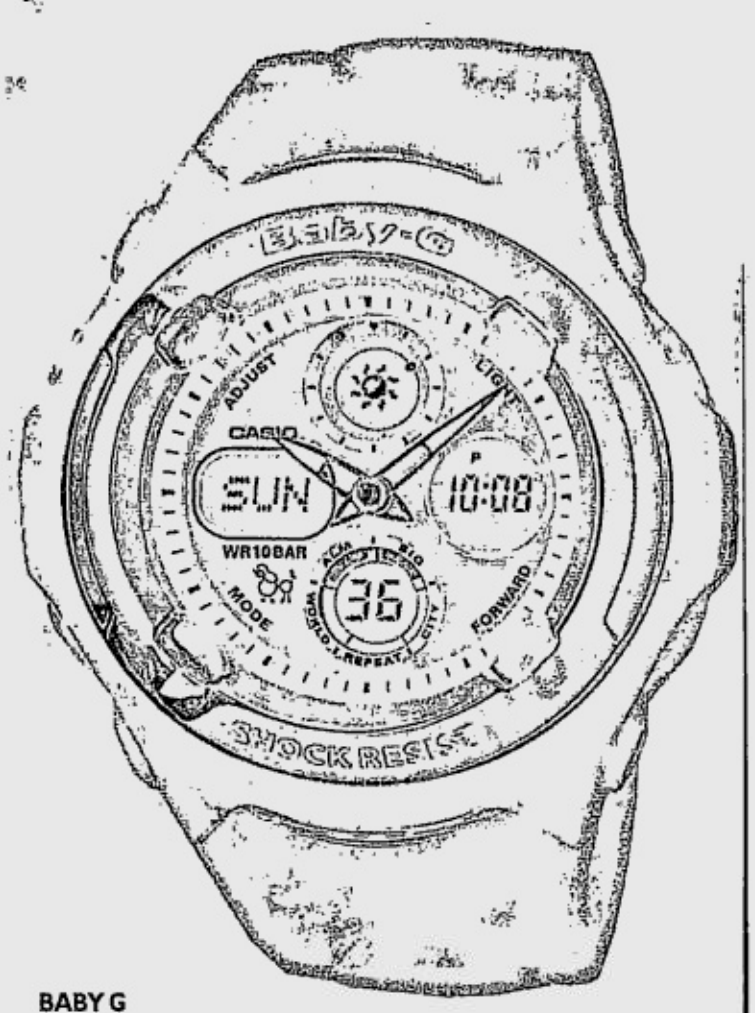
Racers, on the other hand, may rely on the Casio G-Shock Cockpit Series to measure time. The new G-Shock Cockpit models resemble a high-quality dashboard kit.

Nautica "Titanium" Watches with chrono alarm, or the regular model with five-hour alarm, brushed stainless steel case and bracelet, matte black dial with blue accents, are great choices any time.

Time Depot stores are located in Rockwell (Makati); Robinson's Place (Manila); Robinsons Cagayan de Oro; Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Mandaluyong City); Festival Supermall (Alabang, Muntinlupa); Eastwood Citiwalk 2 (Libis, Quezon City); and SM branches in North EDSA Annex, Fairview, Marilao, Bicutan, Pampanga, Davao, Baguio, Dasmariñas, and Cagayan de Oro.

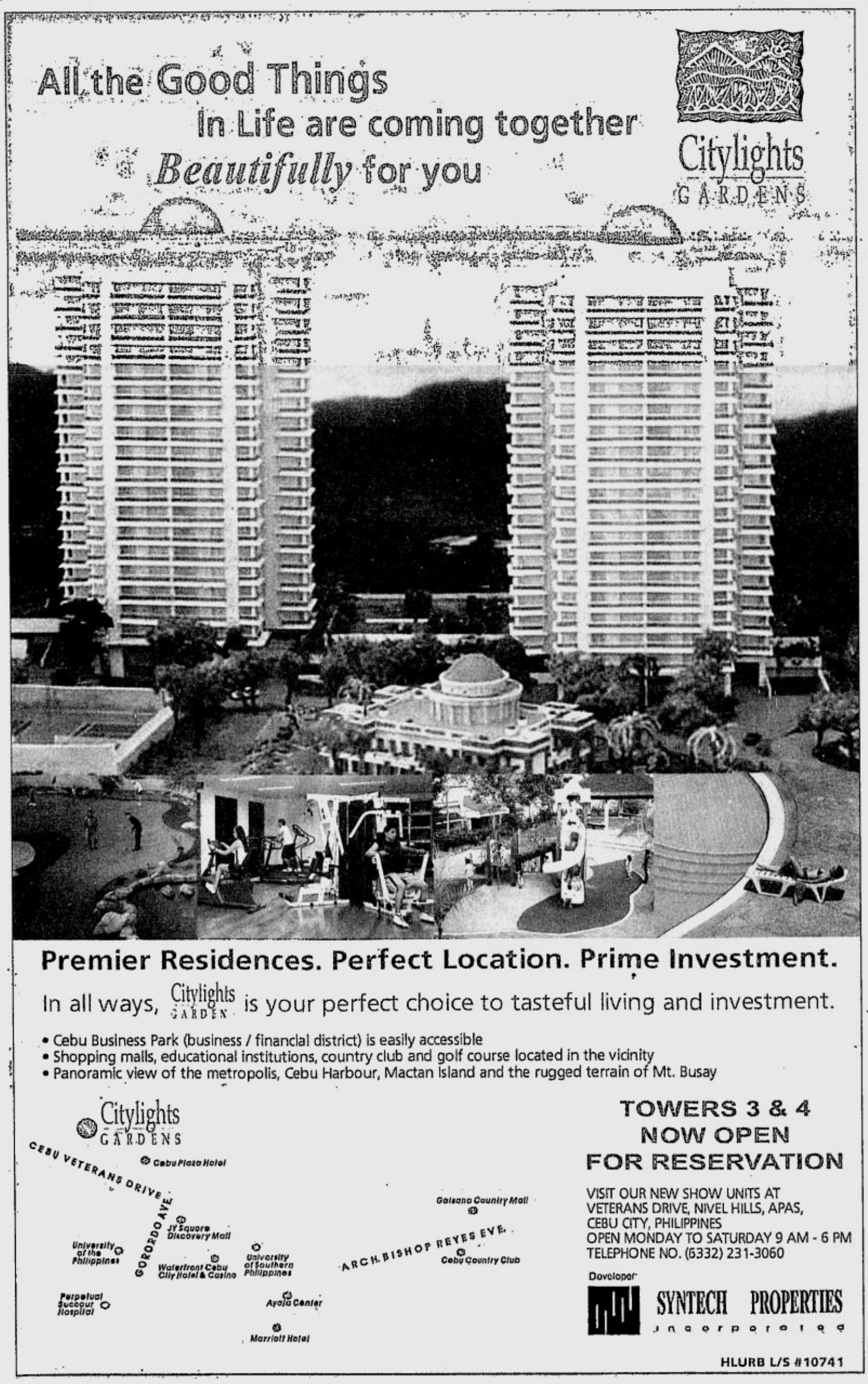


cK ENDLESS



BABY G

ALFEX



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CASIO G-Shock Cockpit

MARC Ecko "Vintage" watch

cK DRESS XL

Bold, elegant December dressing

PLAINS & Prints model Gretchen Barretto

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Dec 10 - 16, 2004
At Market Market, Fort Bonifacio Global City

PLAINS & Prints presents a collection of party-perfect clothes for the holidays, featuring eye-catching prints in bold and vivid colors.

Plains & Prints spokesmodel Gretchen Barretto says, "Plains & Prints has come up with components that are filled with delightful colors and prints that are just so pretty and bright, they're perfect for celebrating the season. What's so attractive about the whole collection is that the styles are very elegant yet easy to wear—true to the brand's adherence to classic and comfortable dressing."

Among the standouts are a shape-skimming Havana top and flared denim with embroidered back pockets, a sequined rayon sleeveless top, and an abstract printed spaghetti-strap chiffon top matched with sleek cotton twill straight-cut pants.

For a more dressy look, put on a paisley-printed top with pin tucks in cool blues and greens. Or, be the gorgeous party gal in an eye-catching floral satin halter top. For cool evenings out, keep warm in the knitted halter with argyle print.

As an early Christmas treat, shoppers get a sleek bongo bag for every purchase of a Plains & Prints Holiday Collection item.

Plains & Prints is available in 29 stores nationwide. It is open for franchising. Call 3726190-92 or e-mail raffco@pacific.net.ph

THESE stylish bags in various sizes are Plains & Prints' official holiday shopping bags this Christmas.

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Johnnie Walker Black Label in ultra matte black canister with sleek textured rubber finish
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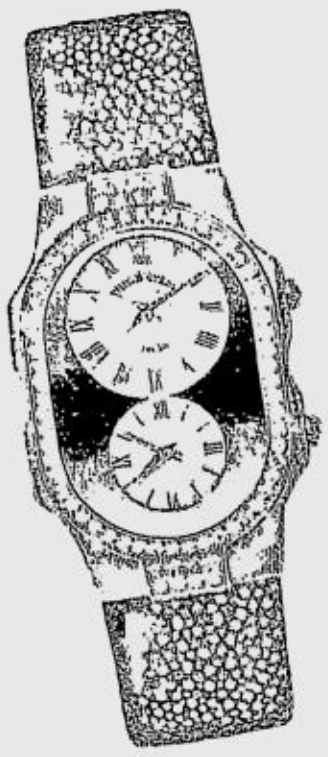

LARGE Case with Double Diamond

SMALL Case

TESSA Prieto-Valdes

'Time Heals' photo exhibit ongoing

PHILIP Stein presents "Time Heals," a photo exhibit ongoing until Dec. 15 at the ground floor of The Podium.

The photo exhibit features the faces of Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Mons Romulo-Tantoco, Pinky Webb, TJ Manotoc, Rod Nepomuceno and Raymund Isaac.

Featured on the Oprah Winfrey show as one of "Oprah's Favorite Things," the Philip Stein watch incorporates active Teslar technology engineered to help reinforce and protect your body's own electromagnetic field against the possible negative effects of electronic pollution.

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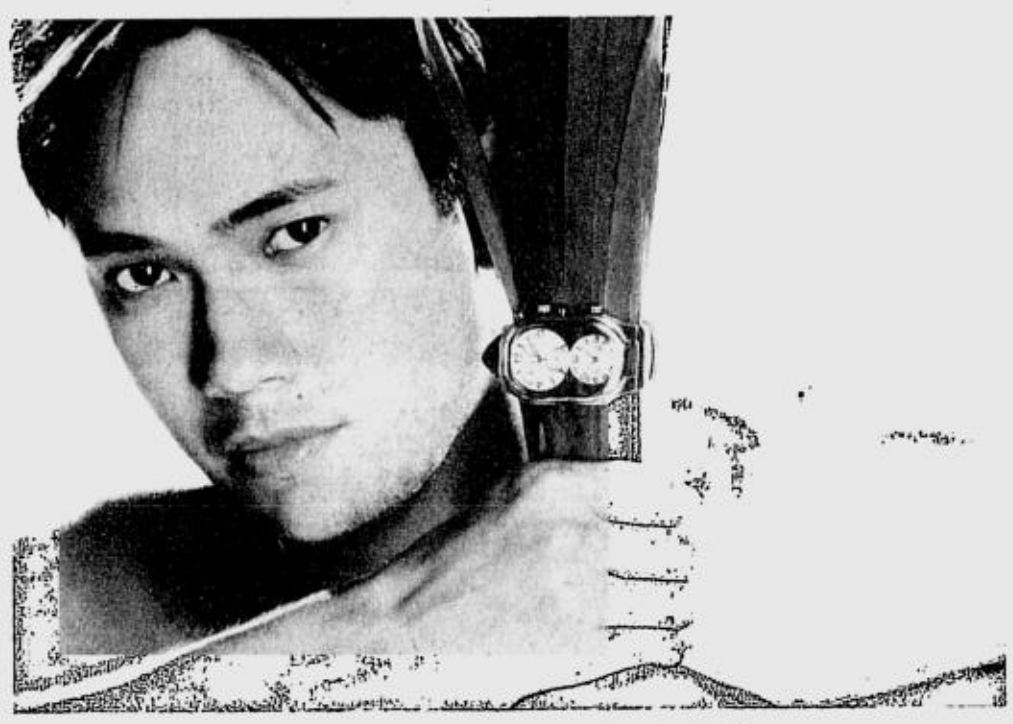

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A PURSE of Jaguar fur with a mounted Jaguar head stands on display as part of the "Wild: Fashion Untamed" exhibition, opening at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute this December. REUTERS

Fur-filled show likely to ruffle feathers

NEW YORK—Expect fur to fly at the newest exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Museum officials are braced for controversy over "Wild: Fashion Untamed," an exhibit of fashion's use of fur and feathers that opens this week with such graphic items as a jaguar's head purse and a hat adorned with stuffed parakeets.

The exhibit looks at animalism and concepts of femininity, sexual fetishes, seduction, excess, coquetry and class standing, curator Andrew Bolton said.

"It's been with us since the beginning of couture," he said.

Despite all the show's skins and skulls, the activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) opted against its well-known protest tactics like throwing animal blood and instead worked with the museum to help promote its message.

"It very much signals a change in the way we trying to change fashion from within the industry rather than from the outside," said Peta spokesman Michael McGraw.

Organized opposition to the use of animals dates as far back as 14th century sumptuary laws that restricted forms of dress to curb extravagance and preserve class distinctions, Bolton said.

"Just by the emotive nature of the use of these materials, it's always been controversial," he said.

The last decade has seen an upsurge in part due to the hip-hop movement that broadened fur's appeal among younger wearers, he said.

Pelts and plumage

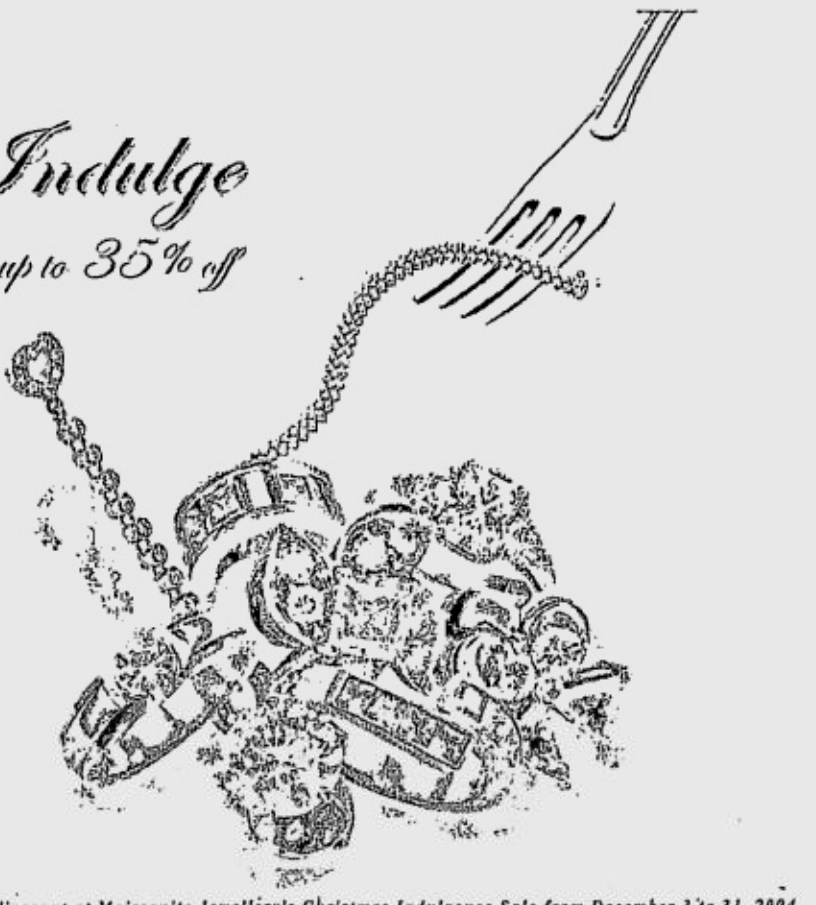
Among the show's most arresting items are a crocodile head piece and jaguar coat by design house Christian Dior, knotted leather skins by Jean Paul Gaultier, a pink ostrich dress by Roberto Cavalli, who sponsored the exhibit, and a Prada dress for next spring made of peacock feathers.

The pelts and plumage are bound to stir reaction, Peta said.

"We're hoping that by presenting both sides of the issue people will come away from the exhibit realizing sensibilities have changed in modern times and there's no reason to continue wearing fur and other animal skins," he said.

The exhibit runs until March 13, 2005. *Reuters*

MANNEQUINS display white fox and white leather fur coat by Ninja Furs (left) belonging to Sean P. Diddy Combs, and a coyote fur coat by John Galliano (right). REUTERS



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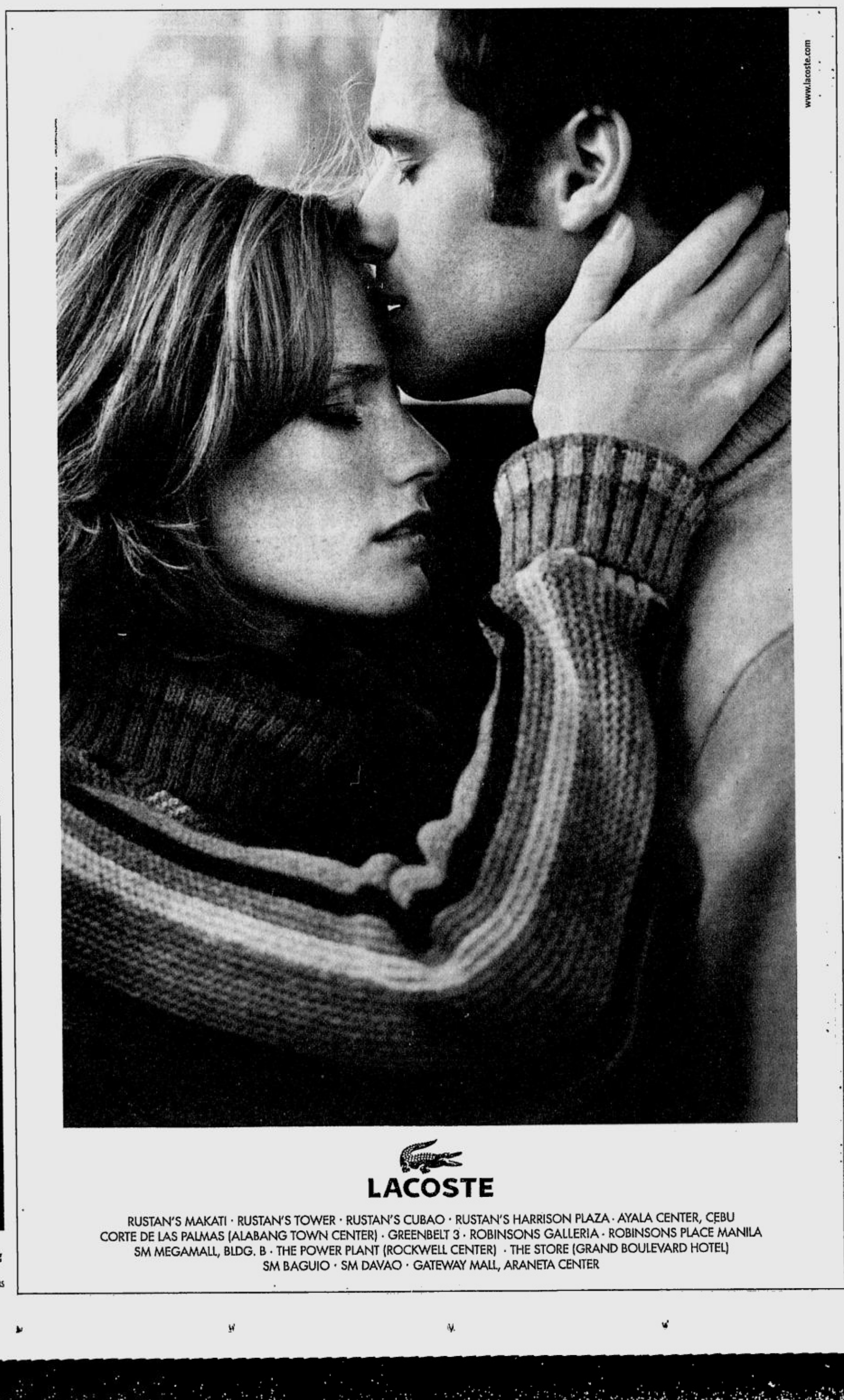

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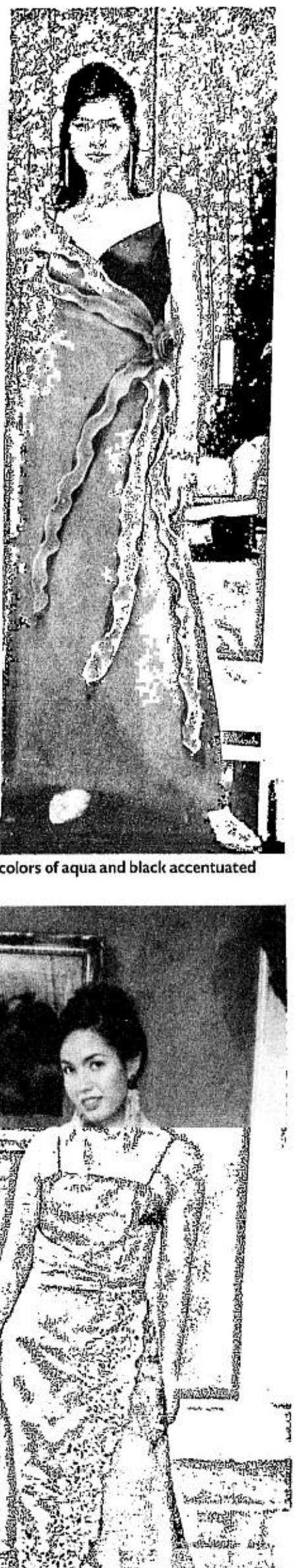
Sparkling holiday drama

TWO-PIECE gown in cascading bias-cut strips of chiffon with layers of off-the-shoulder ruffles cut on the bias, accentuated by Swarovski crystals

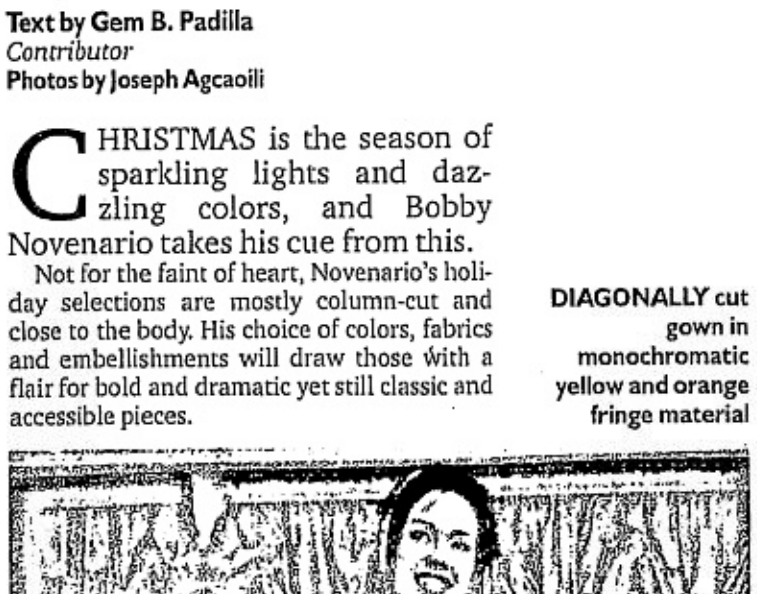
HALTER top in pure silk dupioni with lace pleated skirt and chiffon



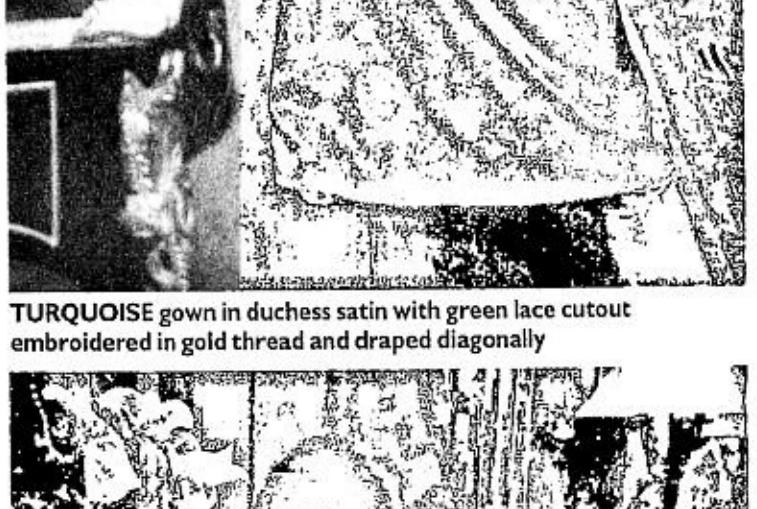
SILK organza in contrasting colors of aqua and black accentuated with ferns and flowers

TURQUOISE gown in duchess satin with green lace cutout embroidered in gold thread and draped diagonally

SATIN gown in ecru with cutout lace embroidered in gold thread, and draped chiffon around the hips



DIAGONALLY cut gown in monochromatic yellow and orange fringe material



LILAC and black gown with strips of organza overlaying each other in contrasting color

Text by Gem B. Padilla
Contributor
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

CHRISTMAS is the season of sparkling lights and dazzling colors, and Bobby Novenario takes his cue from this.

Not for the faint of heart, Novenario's holiday selections are mostly column-cut and close to the body. His choice of colors, fabrics and embellishments will draw those with a flair for bold and dramatic yet still classic and accessible pieces.

* MAKEUP: JUN LAGUARDIA
MODELS: ERIN CAMPOS AND ERIKA MAGLALANG
SHOES: CONFETTI
BOBBY NOVENARIO'S HOLIDAY COLLECTION IS AVAILABLE AT ALL SM BOUTIQUE SQUARES, GLORIETTA 1 AND 3 IN MAKATI, SM BAGUIO, SM SAN FERNANDO AND GREENHILLS MALL

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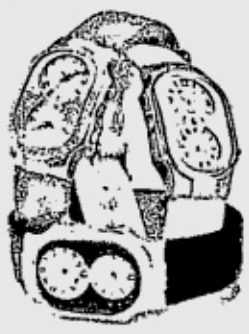
THE PROBLEM

Today, we are surrounded by vast amounts of low energy electromagnetic fields (EMF) emitted by cellular phone systems, computers, overhead lights, and electronic devices of all kinds. The fact is the human body was not built to withstand the effects of these potentially harmful fields.



HOW IS EMF HARMFUL?

The cells in our bodies communicate using billions of tiny electrical impulses. The electromagnetic energy coming from these manmade devices stands in the way of our cells' ability to communicate effectively and ultimately, inhibits our performance.

HOW DOES THE TESLAR® CHIP WORK?

The TESLAR® Chip is engineered to interact with the components of the Philip Stein TESLAR® watch and is designed to help the body strengthen its energy field and reduce the negative effects of exposure to electronic pollution by creating a special signal that mimics the earth's natural healing frequency.

The Teslar® chips are clearly visible through small windows on the back of the watch.

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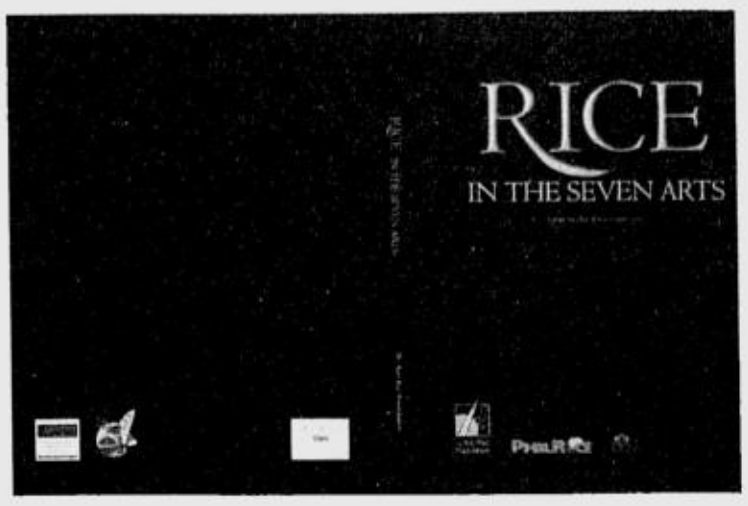
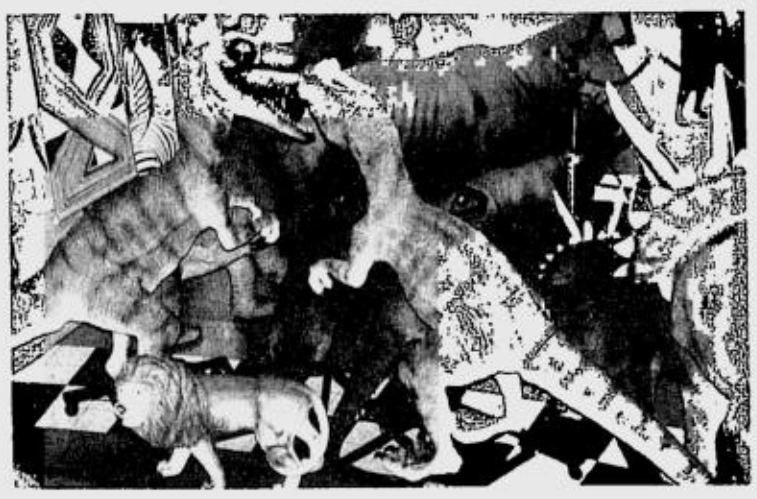
BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN IS A DOLCE VITA

BOOK LAUNCH AT NATIONAL MUSEUM

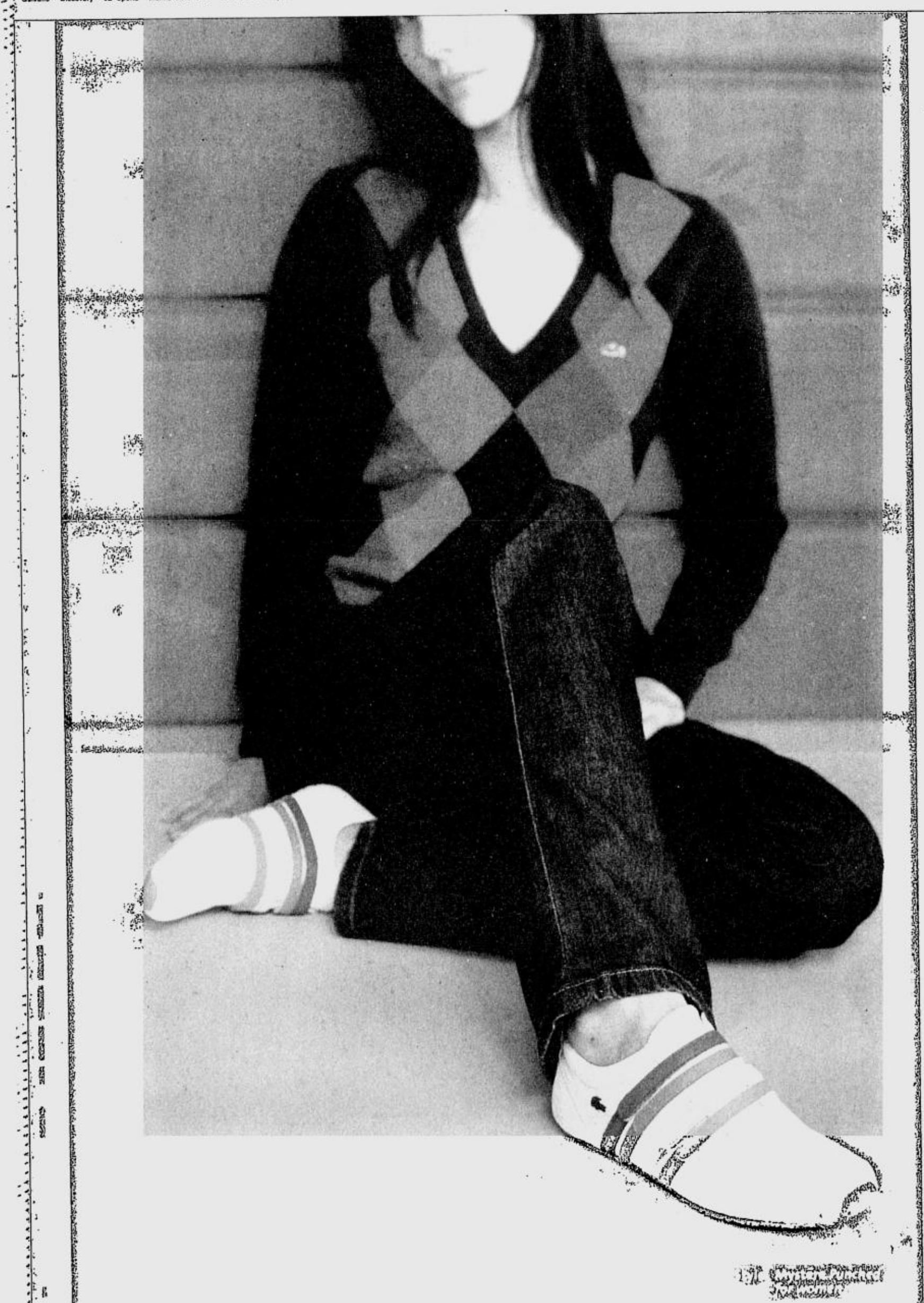
The Asia Rice Foundation and the National Museum of the Philippines will hold a book launch at 2 p.m. today of "Rice in the Seven Arts" at the Gallery of the Rice Exhibit, Museum of the Filipino People, National Museum of the Philippines, P. Burgos St., Manila. Call 5271215 or 5270278 in Manila; or (049)536-2285 in Laguna; or e-mail asiarice@laguna.net.





THE FOUNTAIN Area of Robinsons Place Manila has been transformed into a haven of 50 life-sized zoo animals made of polyester resin. The display runs until Jan. 15, 2005. Included in the pack are tigers, zebras, giraffes, elephants, rhinosaurus and replicas of T-Rex, triceratops and brachiosaurus, crocodile, bears, caiman alligators. Sizes of these animals range from 2 to 19 ft. Souvenir photos with these animals can be availed for a minimum fee.

Christmas concert at the Park



CONCERT at the Park presents "One Great Christmas Concert" today at 5 p.m. The musical features the students of Temple Hill International School. Admission is free.

FESTIVAL. Robinsons Starmills in San Fernando, Pampanga, hosts the Sinukwan Festival until today. There will be street dancing parade, battle of the bands, *lahar* float parade, kite flying exhibition and creative dance interpretation starting at 1 p.m. today.

GOINGS ON

MUSICAL. Paco Park Presents features "Delightful December" with baritone Jesus Emmanuel Baang and pianist Adrian Semacio tonight at 6. Admission is free.

REUNION. St. Jude Catholic School Class '90 celebrates the 15th year of its graduation with a grand reunion 6:30 p.m., Dec. 11, at the G/F function room, North Tower, Pacific Plaza Condominiums, The Fort, Global City, Taguig. Call 7325272.

DINNER SHOW. Ryan Cayabyab is the featured performer in a fundraising dinner show at 6 p.m., Dec. 11, at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto Sr. St. The musical will also feature his wife Emmy and her high school class of '79. Call Vicente V. Pijano III at 5366350/0918-9220566.

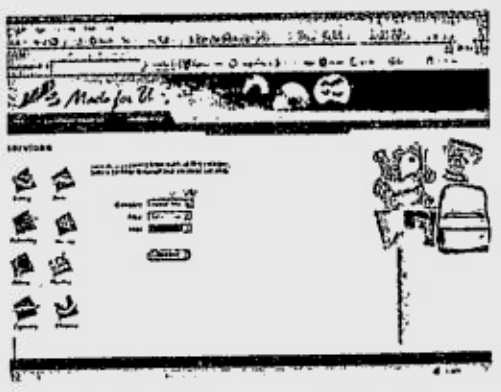
BAZAAR. The 6th Angel Sent Bazaar, which are scheduled on Dec. 11-12 and 18-19, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel will showcase houseware, décor and accessories. Call 8253482/8250804.

PROMO. AVSurfer offers two options when you buy a Panasonic PT LB10SE micro portable SVGA LCD projector. For a total price of P97,700, get the projector plus a free PalmOne Zire31 or digital camera. Option 2 give you the projector with an ECS Desknote for P124,500 for a total of P11,000 in savings. Promo is ongoing until Dec. 15. Call 8439052/8938004/8431541.

CHANGE IN SKED. The Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops has moved its workshops to May 2005 due to several requests from participants. Called Workshop Caravan, first stop will be Pangasinan and La Union. Call 9251915.

WI-FI HOTSPOT. Shangri-La Plaza has completed its conversion into a Wi-Fi mall with a mall-wide coverage, giving its clientele a venue for mobile connectivity at broadband speed. The mall is provided with Wi-Fi by Airborne Access. Mall guests may now surf the web, download, send or receive e-mail or chat anywhere in the mall with a Wi-Fi enabled laptop or PDA.

DRAWING COMPETITION. The Philippine Drawing Society launches its own drawing competition. The competition is open to all interested parties, entries using any drawing medium about any subject matter, must be original, and have not been exhibited previously. Entries that will qualify for the final judging will be included in the Philippine Drawing Society exhibit at SM Megamall Art Center from Dec. 15-30.



MADE For U, a company specializing in custom-made corporate gifts, recently introduced its website, www.madeforu.biz, on the Internet. The website features quick links to gifts and browse categories for a wide range of quality merchandise, ranging from promotional products, executive gifts, awards, decorative items, desktop paraphernalia, dinnerware, mugs and glassware, apparel, linen, caps and sportswear. The store has outlets at Megamall A, Mandaluyong; SM Southmall, Las Piñas; Glorietta 4, Makati; and Ayala Center Cebu. Shops will soon have e-stations where customers may easily browse catalogs using touch-screen monitors.

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
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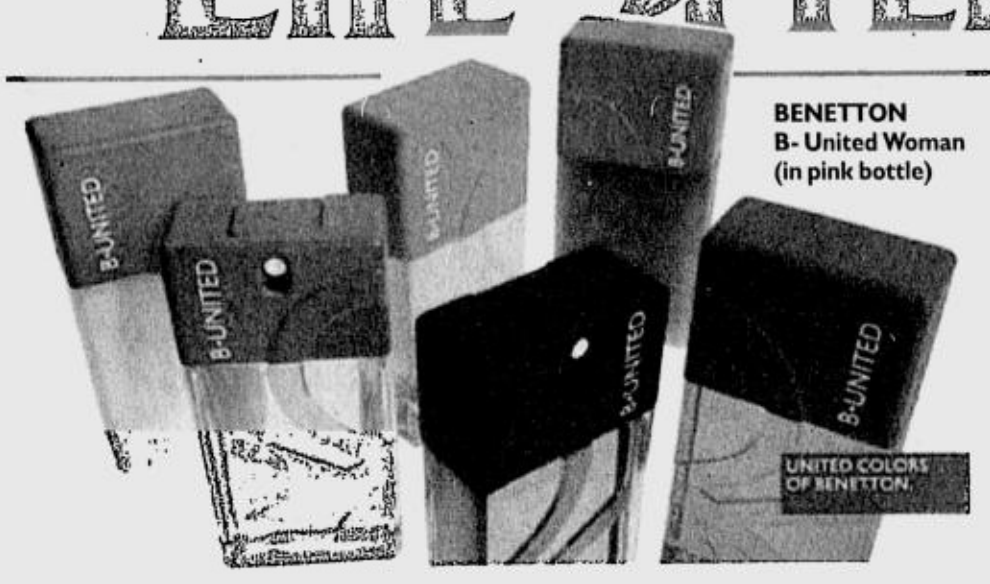
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

LIFESTYLE Beauty



BENETTON
B- United Woman
(in pink bottle)

The cooler months from October to February give license to wear stronger, sexier scents

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BLIMS fine furniture
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Sweet flavors with no calories

IN THE PHILIPPINES where citrus fragrances are the norm, the cooler months from October to February give license to wear stronger, sweeter and sexier scents.

Confectionery-based perfumes are an instant hit. Here, I have listed some choice products for your delectation.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Chocolate: Comptoir de Sud Pacifique in Cacao with Star choc-bar soap in coffee flavor (P195) from Essenses will drive chocoholics mad with joy.

More sophisticated chocolate scents are that of Thierry Mugler's Angel, both in parfum and the beautiful star candle, Lolita Lempicka's sweet licorice base, and L'Occitane's Candied Fruits home and body line, which has been mistaken for TM's Angel (though it comes at a fraction of the price, but with the same intensity).

The biggest news is that Bulgari has come up with a limited-edition item called Blu Notte that combines chocolate and vodka. This is my current Bulgari favorite!

Milk: Johnson's baby milk bath, Star choco bar vanilla scented soap, The Body Shop's soy light oil spray, and body scrub.

L'Occitane's honey home and body line, which includes cleansing fluid, gelee, milk bath, massage nectar, candles, incense and alcohol-free spray, brings back happy childhood memories. Amande's body line range with its scent of sugary almonds has led my friends to sniff me all day long. It's truly addicting.

For matching scents, try Nina Ricci's Jour de Fête.

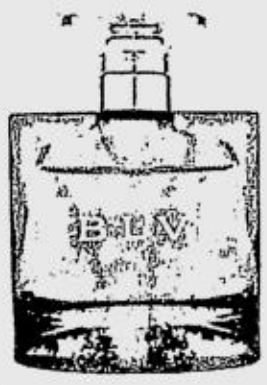
Fruity vanilla: Nina Ricci's Love in Paris with Bergamot, Apricot, Jasmine Cedarwood and of course, vanilla, is tops in my list. The shower gel and body lotion smells even better when it mixes with the body chemistry. This is the only other Nina Ricci I like aside from Almond Amour.

Benetton's B-United Woman's vanilla and tart berries combination reminds me of a yummy raspberry smoothie.

Féraud by Louis Féraud blends with mouthwatering pears, while Comptoir de

SWEET/ F4

LACOSTE Touch of Pink 001



BULGARI Blv Notte

COMPTOIR de sud Pacifique Amour Cacao

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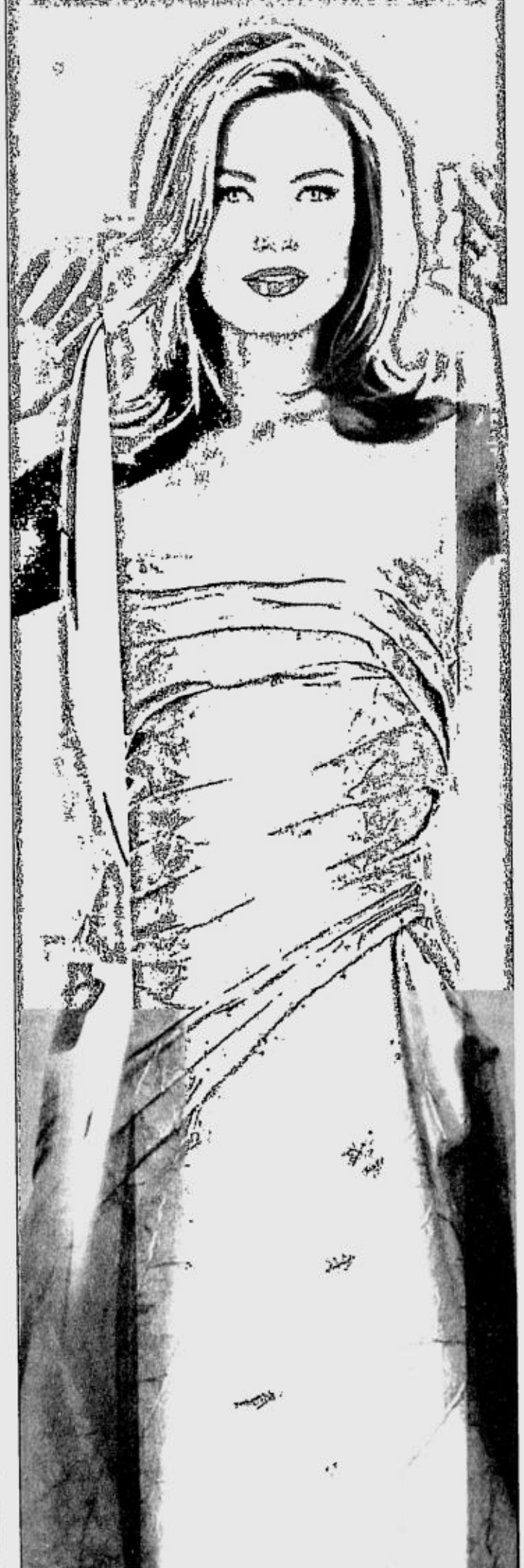
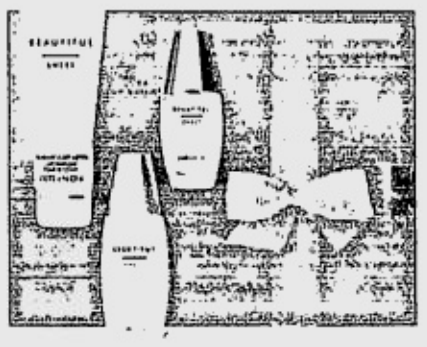
HOLIDAY 2004

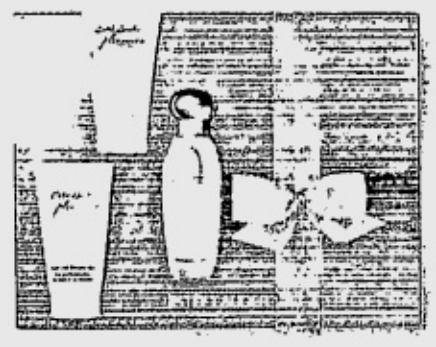
Dazzle them with the perfect gift from Estée Lauder. There's so much to choose from. The most irresistible fragrances, holiday colours that shimmer and shine, precious collectibles to treasure forever, festively wrapped and ready for giving.



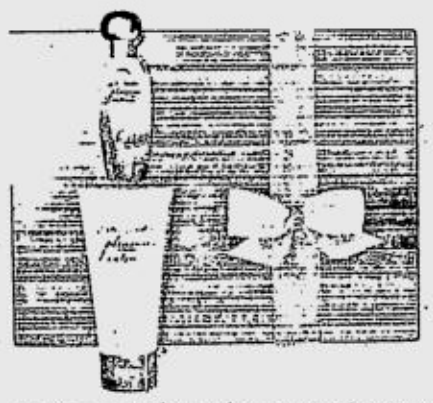
wardrobe of scents
A DIFFERENT FRAGRANCE FOR
A DIFFERENT DAY, A DIFFERENT MOOD.



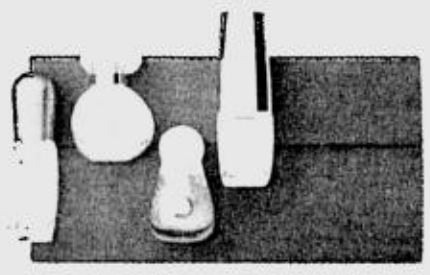
Beautiful Sheer Essentials
₱3,150 (Regular Price: ₱5,300)
Eau de Parfum Spray 30 ml
Fragrant Body Spray 50 ml
Fragrant Body Lotion 100 ml



Estée Lauder *pleasures* Day By Day
₱2,950 (Regular Price: ₱3,520)
Eau de Parfum Spray 50 ml
Body Lotion 50 ml
Bath and Shower Gel 50 ml

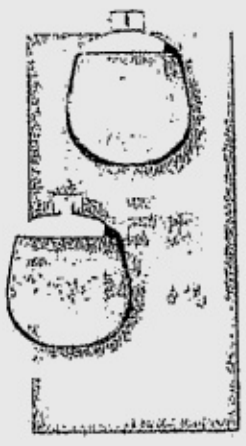


Estée Lauder *pleasures intense* Luxurious Duo
₱2,300 (Regular Price: ₱2,780)
Eau de Parfum Spray 30 ml
Body Lotion 75 ml



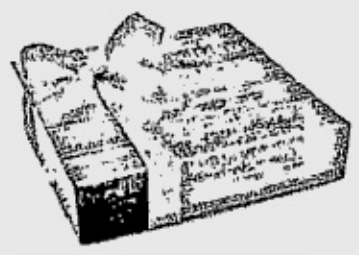
Estée Lauder Perfume Treasures
₱2,250 (Regular Price: ₱8,100)
Estée Lauder *pleasures* 4 ml
Intuition 4 ml
Estée Lauder beyond**paradise** 4 ml
Beautiful 4.7 ml

Estée Lauder beyond**paradise** Enticing Dreams
₱3,500 (Regular Price: ₱4,450)
Eau de Parfum Spray 50 ml
Body Lotion 100 ml
Perfume Pen 4 ml



Introducing Lauder beyond**paradise** Men New Adventures
₱3,850 (Regular Price: ₱5,100)
Cologne Spray 100 ml
After Shave 100 ml

Your Festive Gift
An exotic Silk Road Handbag appliquéd with sequins is yours with purchases of ₱3,000 and above.



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Pur DTI - NCR Permit No. 5986 Series Of 2004

Right 'do for the party season

STEFAN Wilczynski of Basement Salon and his choice of Tigi Bedhead products

GLAMOUR is definitely required this holiday season.

Basement Salon's managing director and stylist Stefan Wilczynski says the right cut and precise hair styles will create the confidence-boosting look needed to make merry this Christmas.

Using TIGI Bed Head's range of styling wonders and working with stylist Angelo Villanueva and designers Nono Palmos, Adrian Bolivar, and Filep Motwary, Wilczynski presents 'dos to make waves this season.

The hair expert says bangs and curls are in—short, medium, or long, straight or curly. It is best to combine textures in one style. He adds that volume is very important, anything away from the "rebonded" look. Color means base hues with highlights.

Long flowing hair is a sure hit. For a natural finish, Wilczynski uses his Bed Head favorites Shine Junkie, Mastermind, and Health Goddess. Though big is in, today's version is more smoothened and less pronounced, but glitzy.

The effortless look never goes out of style. Adding touches of color to the free style gives a spunky twist. To achieve this look, Wilczynski applies Manipulator, Hard Head Hairspray, Headbanger, and Hard To Get from the Bed Head line.

TIGI Bed Head is available at Basement Salon and other leading salons. Basement Salon is at the Powerplant Mall, Rockwell.

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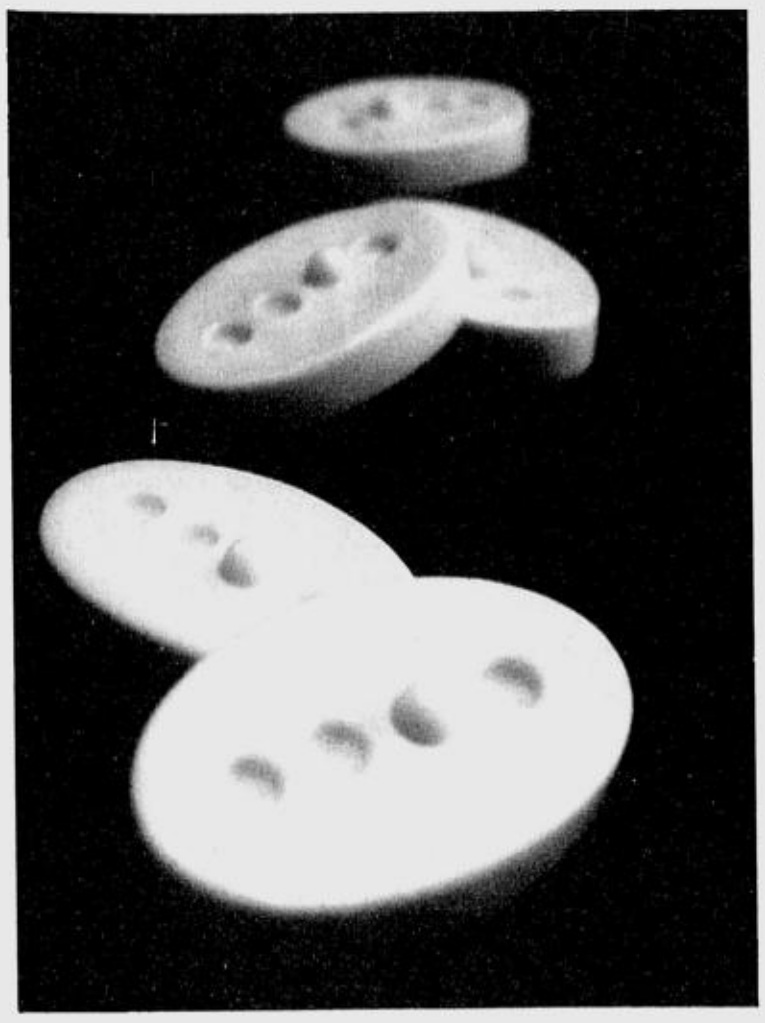
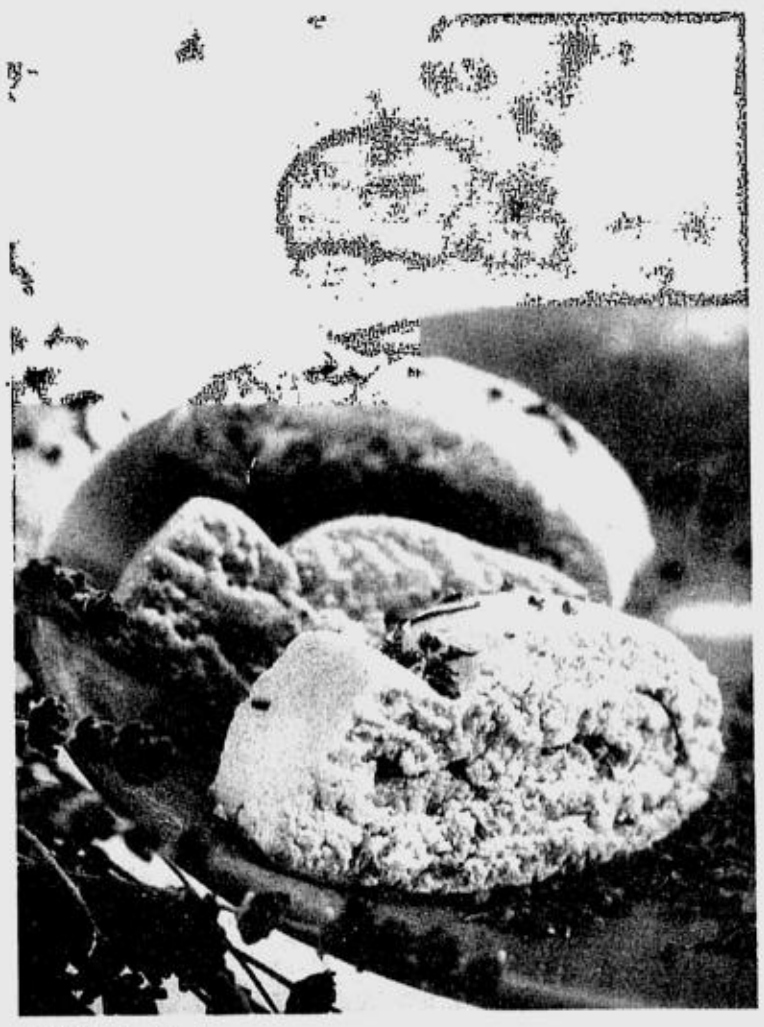


THERAPY Massage Bar



ANGELS facial cleanser

DREAM Cream moisturizer

HELPING Hands hand cream

Hollywood women's beauty secret

SOME of the world's most beautiful women have made it a habit to stock up on Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics.

And why not? Lush makes every effort to avoid synthetics. Fifty-nine percent of its products are completely free of preservatives, and packaging is kept to a minimum.

Lush does not test on animals, nor does it buy from suppliers who test on animals.

Still, just like the rest of us mere mortals, even the most beautiful women in the world have their problems. Given their list of favorite purchases, Helen Ambrosen, Lush's product creator, reviews these women's beauty regimen and advises:

Angelina Jolie: Bought Ocean Salt facial cleanser (P495), Utrabland facial cleanser (£4.35, Skin Drink face moisturizer (P395) and Helping Hands hand cream (P445).

"Angelina is very beautiful and her skin always looks good. Ocean's Salt may be a bit strong for her face, although it's a great scrub. Since an actress's skin is her stock in trade, I would have recommended Angels on Bare Skin, which has lavender and rose oils, kaolin and ground almonds, and is a little more gentle.

"She got Ultrabland, and there's nothing better for removing makeup. The beeswax and peanut oil in this product have a like-for-like action and are excellent at gently dissolving all traces of dirt and grime, so it's good for regular use if she is filming. And, of course her hands are treated to a rich cream, which is excellent as they do show age so easily.

"These products work for women who really want to protect their skin and have a preventative approach to beauty."

Daryl Hannah: Bought Skin's Shangri-La facial moisturizer (P1,950), Ultralight sun cream (P745), Ultimate Shine shampoo (P345) and Veganese conditioner (from P275).

"Daryl looks as if she has really fine skin, and she has a prominent bone structure so a moisturizer like Skin's Shangri-La is an excellent choice to help plump up the skin. Its formulation is excellent to comfort and retain moisturizer. Ultralight moisturizer, with its repair properties and UV protection, is ideal for someone like Daryl who is outdoorsy.

"Ever since she swam into the big screen, Daryl's hair has helped define her. It's still long and will need lots of treatment to keep it in good condition. Ultimate Shine and Veganese Conditioner, which contains moisturizing seaweed, are ideal to boost volume without weighing the hair down too much.

"Her products are perfectly suited for more mature skins, or those exposed to the elements."

Halle Berry: Bought Buffy The Backside Slayer (P795), Dream Cream (P595), Therapy massage bar (P375).

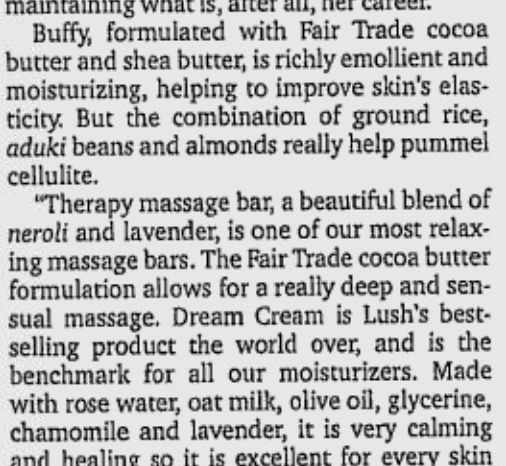
"Halle is credited with having the best body in Hollywood and it shows. All of the products she has purchased reflect the care she takes in maintaining what is, after all, her career.

Buffy, formulated with Fair Trade cocoa butter and shea butter, is richly emollient and moisturizing, helping to improve skin's elasticity. But the combination of ground rice, *aduki* beans and almonds really help pummel cellulite.

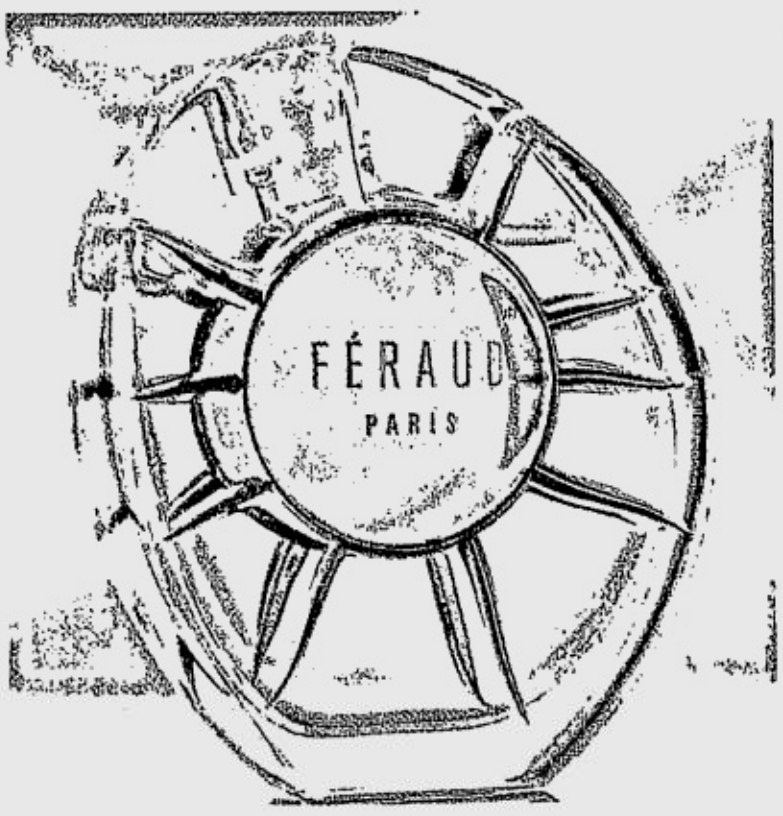
"Therapy massage bar, a beautiful blend of *neroli* and lavender, is one of our most relaxing massage bars. The Fair Trade cocoa butter formulation allows for a really deep and sensual massage. Dream Cream is Lush's best-selling product the world over, and is the benchmark for all our moisturizers. Made with rose water, oat milk, olive oil, glycerine, chamomile and lavender, it is very calming and healing so it is excellent for every skin type and most skin conditions.

These products suit sporty types and those who want to tone and firm their bodies."

All the products listed above are available at Lush shops nationwide. Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. Stores are located at Glorietta 4, The Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall and Greenbelt 3. Visit www.lush.com.ph



ULTIMATE Shine shampoo bar



FÉRAUD 001

ENJOY the gift, Honey!

Sweet flavors with no calories

From page F1

Sud's Vanille Abricot is less cloying than pure vanilla.

Cranberries: There are two main lines that offer great cranberry scents. The Body Shop is the hands-down winner with its entire body line of shower gel, body scrub, body butter, and shimmer lotion.

The cranberry home fragrance oil is also the most potent, and a few drops mixed with water on a burner will fill a huge room. You won't even need cologne if you layer everything.

Complete the home range with Wood of Windsor's spiced cranberry candles and incense sticks. They make great affordable Christmas presents.

ETERNITY Moments

Two options

For those who don't want vanilla or confectionery scents, the holidays have two options in store for you.

A line so potent it does not require perfume is Laura Mercier. True patisserie lovers will glory in her Crème Brûlee line, Au Lait, and Vanilla Éclair. The brand now has these yummy scents in candle form as well.

For those yearning to spritz on fragrance, there are no better brands to turn to than Comptoir de Sud's Vanille scents and L'Occitane's vanilla.

Woods of Windsor's orange spice shower gel or exfoliating soap topped with Lacoste's Touch of Pink or Comptoir O'Pomelo are made for each other and can actually be worn all-year round.

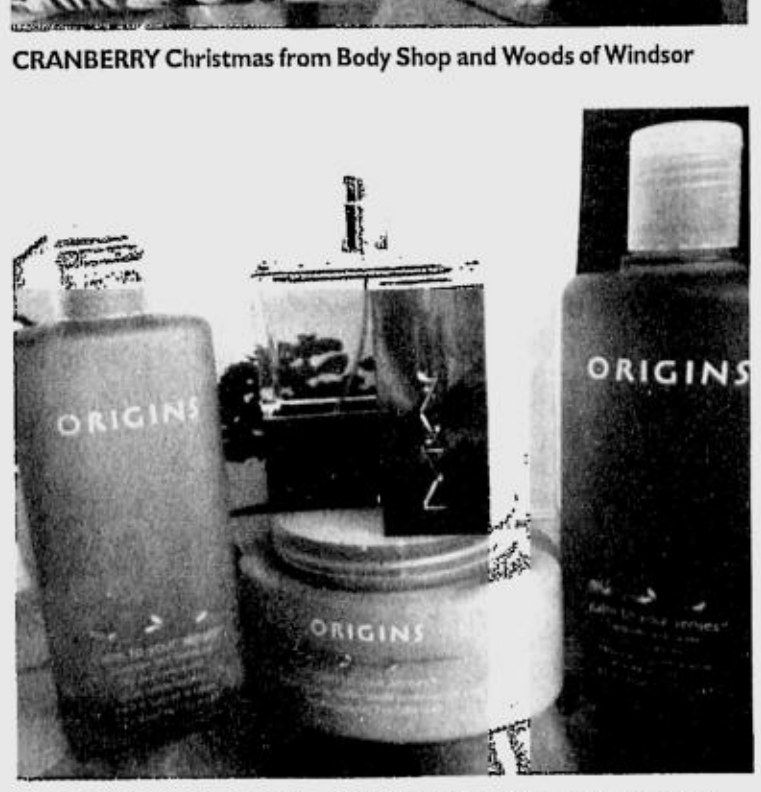
The citrus scents of Blood Orange on Touch of Pink and the tart grapefruit in O'Pomelo smells fresh, clean and energizing. Lacoste T.O.P. smells very similar to Victoria's Secret Pink EDP.

Those with more sophisticated tastes who are looking for limited-edition fragrances can opt for Calvin Klein's Eternity Moments. It appeals to a large age group as the fruity floral scent is a mix of pink peony, raspberry cashmere, rosewood, lychee and guava.

Perfect for our tropical weather, and has enough sexy zing to make it memorable and lasting.

Woods of Windsor, Star Choco soap, L'Occitane, Comptoir de Sud Pacifique fragrances, Laura Mercier are available at Essenses Rustans. Lacoste, Bulgari, Benetton B.United, Eternity Moments are available at leading department stores.

CRANBERRY Christmas from Body Shop and Woods of Windsor



ORIGINS Lavender Vanilla and MAC MV2 Vanilla and Coffee Soap

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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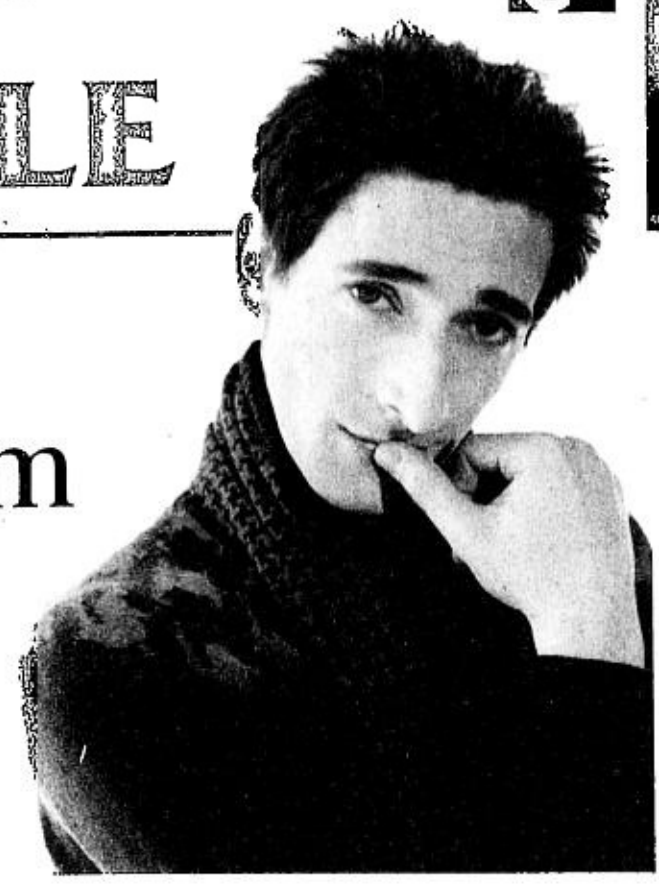
LIFESTYLE

G1

Class and style in masculine form



Ermenegildo Zegna is the last word in fine men's clothing and accessories

OSCAR-winning actor Adrien Brody for Ermenegildo Zegna

By Gibbs Cadiz

PETER Cincotti is a 21-year-old American pianist-singer-songwriter who has released two acclaimed jazz-tinged albums and has been described as "prodigiously talented" by the New York Times.

Diego Luna is a 23-year-old Mexican actor best known for having starred with childhood friend Gael Garcia Bernal in the hit arthouse film "Y Tu Mama Tambien." He was last seen in "The Terminal," with Tom Hanks.

Alberto Gilardino, at 22, is considered one of world soccer's brightest young players. The Italian athlete plays forward for Club Parma, and has seen action in both the World Cup and the Athens Olympics.

These three men have something in common aside from burgeoning celebrity: Ermenegildo Zegna (pronounced "Zen-ya").

They are the new faces of the famed Italian fashion brand's advertising campaigns for next year, replacing Adrien Brody, the Oscar-winning actor (for Roman Polanski's "The Pianist") who is set to end his contract with the fashion house by the end of 2004.

"Adrien Brody brought the brand international recognition," says Itsuro Higuchi, Ermenegildo Zegna's managing director for Asia Pacific.

So why is he on the way out? Because Brody has become a big name—much too big for Zegna, that is. The brand that stitched its name on classically understated sartorial dressing would rather go back to its more sedate roots, without the complications of Hollywood hype.

Emerging name

Ironically, it was his darkhorse Oscar triumph (against such big guns as Jack Nicholson, Daniel Day-Lewis, Michael Caine and Nicolas Cage) that brought Brody—and the brand that dressed him for the red-carpet event—worldwide fame.

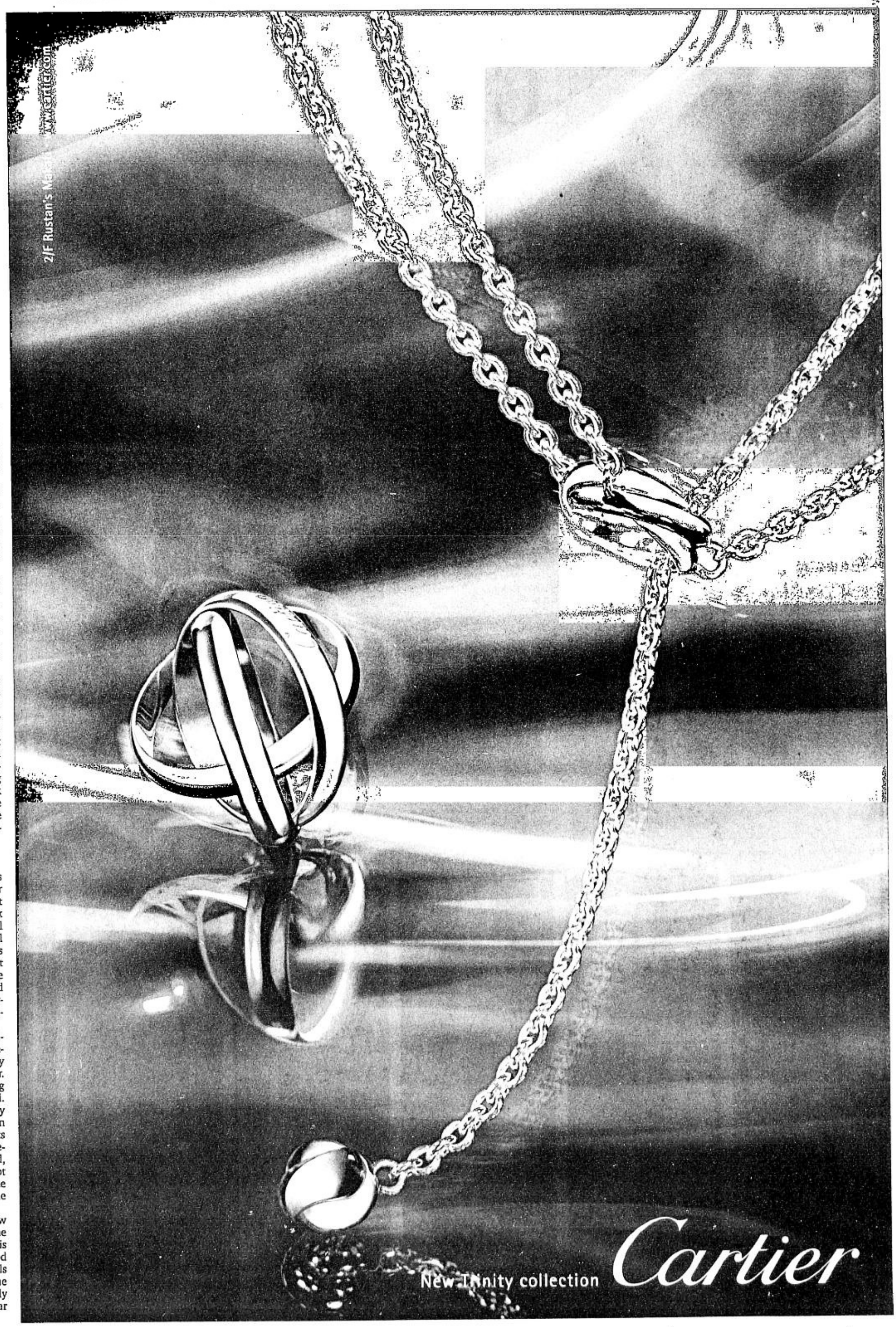
Before "The Pianist," he was a respected but not very well-known actor. "He was an emerging name," says Higuchi. Which was exactly what Zegna had in mind for its spokesmodel: someone solid, talented, reputable—but not too famous as to take the shine off the clothes themselves.

Zegna's three new image models fit the bill perfectly at this point. Their good looks, maturing skills and semi-fame groove quite nicely with the four-pillar fashion mantra that defines Ermenegildo Zegna: timelessly contemporary designs that showcase masculinity, a proud Italian heritage and an obsession with quality.

"Zegna's fashion statement is classic understatement," says Higuchi. Its three lines—Sartorial, Z Zegna and Zegna Sport—are variations on the same theme, tweaked, refined and upgraded here and there to match specific segments of the upscale men's market.

"Peter Cincotti, for example, carries the Sartorial line, which is the classic and formal Zegna look," explains Higuchi. "Diego Luna is the face for Z Zegna, which is for younger people, for

CLASS/ G2



PIANIST-singer-songwriter Peter Cincotti for Sartorial, the classic Zegna line

MEXICAN actor Diego Luna for the younger, hipper Z Zegna

PIN-STRIPED gray wool suit

CHOCOLATE knit sweater with geometric pattern print over brown pants

SPORTY gray-and-blue jacket, gray turtleneck shirt and gray pants

RICH brown jacket over brown vest and red turtleneck, paired with light-brown pants

RED jacke

Class and style in

Zegna is the only fashion brand that manufactures its own textiles as well as designs its own collections

From page G1

metrosexuals. It has a sharper, hipper edge. Alberto Gilardino is for Zegna Sport, which is active, more colorful."

Venerable tradition

The Sartorial line, says Higuchi, whether bought off the rack or made to measure (a process by which, without actual fitting, a customer can have a Zegna ensemble made to his specifications in four weeks or so), still makes up the bulk of sales worldwide.

No surprise there, as the line's spare designs, impeccable tailoring and top-quality fabrics remain the prototype of the venerable Italian textile and haberdashery tradition that the Zegna house (one of the few remaining family-owned luxury brands worldwide) has built since 1910.

The retail business itself was launched only in 1985. Before this, Zegna was known for churning out fine fabrics and, later, becoming the last word in elegant custom tailoring. It's the only fashion brand that manufactures its own textiles as well as designs its own collections.

Today, Zegna's design team is led by image and creative director Stefano Miglio, with 85 percent of sales coming from pret-a-porter and accessories and 15 percent from textile manufacturing.

Zegna has also branched out to accessories, coming up with leather products and shoes in partnership with other Italian marquee names like Ferragamo and Versace.

Bigger outlet

In the Philippines, Zegna is exclusively carried by Rustan's, which has recently opened a bigger Zegna outlet at the main floor of Rustan's Makati.

"It's an expanded store with an updated look," says Higuchi, who came to town to inaugurate the 180-sqm outlet. "There are couches to make our customers feel warm

CLASS/ G4

ITALIAN soccer player Alberto Gilardino for Zegna Sport

ITSU
Zegn
Asia-P

WOOL trench coat over a pin-striped suit, necktie and shirt

PIN-STRIPED suit under a windbreaker with calf-skin lapel

A PLAY of texture and prints: dark-brown leather bomber jacket, checkered pants, striped shirt and necktie

DOUBLE-ZIP sweater over leather pants

PLAYFUL orange-and-blue cotton shirt over khakis, shoes and bag

GRAY jacket, orange-and-blue inner shirt and khaki trousers

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ZIP-UP turtleneck, leather
t and brown pants

STREAMLINED pin-striped suit from the Zegna Fall-Winter 2004 collection

RICH chocolate knit sweater with asymmetric zipper detail, brown striped pants and leather sling

BLUE-AND-BLACK track-suit ensemble, gray V-neck shirt, cap and bag

masculine form

RO Higuchi, Ermenegildo
's managing director for
Pacific

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"Karoling" A Christmas Chorale Competition
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FILINVEST

Next Week... Holiday Tunes
Join & Win! "Holiday Rhythms" Christmas Dance Competition on Dec. 26
See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-564 Series of 2004
Holiday Mall Hours:
Dec. 3 - 22: 10 am - 10 pm • Dec. 23: 10 am - 12 midnight • Dec. 24 & 31: 10 am - 7 pm
Dec. 25 & Jan. 1: 12 nn - 10 pm • Dec. 26 - 30: 10 am - 9 pm

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Class and style in masculine form

ASIDE from clothes, Zegna now produces accessories such as shoes, bags, belts and wallets, in partnership with other Italian fashion houses such as Ferragamo and Versace.

From page G2

and comfy when they're in the store."

The Philippines, notes Higuchi, is not so much a clothes market as an accessories market: shoes, belts, bags and wallets among others.

"Our forecast for next year is 50-percent growth," he says. Asia's booming shopping scene has given the company 30- to 35-percent annual growth rates over the past years compared to 15-16 percent in other parts of the world.

But while women are the bigger luxury spenders everywhere, Zegna is unlikely to venture into women's clothing. Instead, it has acquired Agnona ("Anyo-na"), a high-end European women's line, to complement its men's offerings.

So for now, Zegna remains the domain of the more fuss-free—but no less discerning—side of the species.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

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'Twas the month of Christmas and all through the Shang,

Children squealed and laughed and the caroling bells rang!

'Cause 'tis a small world this Christmas at your favorite mall,

With treats and surprises for one and all!

Holiday Sights and Sounds at the Grand Atrium, Level 2

Alitaptap presents
"Stories Connect the World"
with Award-winning Storyteller
Ms. Dianne de Las Casas
December 3, Friday, 2pm

Countdown to Christmas Concert with
De La Salle University (DLSU) Pops Orchestra
December 4, Saturday, 6pm

"Cinderella"
Interactive Musical Storytelling with
Kids Act Philippines
December 11, Saturday, 5pm

"It's A Small World Christmas" at the Shang
Presented by Trumpets
December 5, 12, 26 & January 2, Sunday, 4:30pm
December 21, Tuesday, 4:30pm

San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra &
The San Miguel Master Chorale
December 16, Thursday, 7pm

"It's a Children's Christmas"
with Ms. Pops Fernandez &
the Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong
December 17, Friday, 7pm

"A Very Jerry Christmas"
with Cartoon Network
December 19, Sunday, 10am

Christmas Caravan
with Effie Nanas Dancentre
December 22, Wednesday, 6pm

A Classical Christmas Concert
with Acoustic Perfection
December 24, Friday, 4pm

Deck the Halls with Gifts and Music at the Art Plaza, Level 4

It's A Wrap with Wrap Shop
Christmas Gift Wrapping Session
December 3, Friday, 4pm

Christmas Wrap Up
Gift Wrapping Session
with National Bookstore and Hallmark
December 10, Friday, 4pm

A Classical Christmas Concert with
Acoustic Perfection
December 17, Friday, 4pm
December 22, Wednesday, 4pm

Heavenly Voices Come A-Caroling

Chiang Kai Shek Children's Choir
Level 3
December 4, Saturday, 3pm

University of the East (UE) Chorale
Art Plaza, Level 4
December 4, Saturday, 4pm

Ateneo Chamber Singers
Art Plaza, Level 4
December 11, Saturday, 4pm

Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong
Level 3
December 12, Sunday, 3pm

Philippine Madrigal Singers
Level 3
December 18, Saturday, 4pm

Tiples ng Makati
Level 3
December 19, Sunday, 3pm

Kilyawan Boy's Choir
Level 3
December 26, Sunday, 3pm

Shopping Hours for a Merry Holiday

December 8-23	
Extended Mall Hours	10am - 10pm
December 24 and 31	10am - 7pm
December 26-30	
Regular Mall Hours	10am - 9pm
December 25 and January 1, 2005	
Mall Closed	

Jingle Bell Rockin' at the Streetscape

Starts at 9:30pm	
December 3	Oona
December 4	Acoustic Jive with May Bayot
Starts at 10pm	
December 10	Fresh Mix
December 11	REtroSPECT
December 17	FreeVerse
December 18	John Y Cash & The Jukebox
December 30	Pre-New Year's Party with Dimsum & D'Soul

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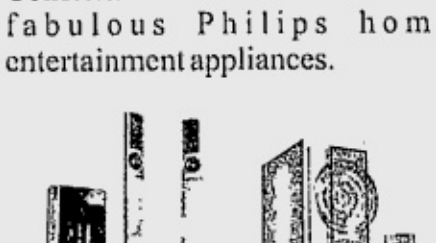
Philips 'Best of Europe 2' last hurrah!

THE BEST OF EUROPE PROMO

Now, you have more chances of experiencing the best that Europe has to offer as Philips Consumer Electronics, one of the world's largest and Europe's leading consumer electronics company, announces the extension of its latest raffle promo. Get to drive home a brand new BMW 3161 as Philips extends the "Best of Europe. 2" promo up to December 30, 2004. Grand draw is on January 14, 2005.

Get the chance to drive home a new BMW 316i with Philips "Best of Europe 2" promo.

Other major prizes up for grabs are tour packages to Amsterdam, Paris and London; and Prada and Salvatorre Ferragamo gift checks worth P50,000.00. Also at stake are Philips Pixel Plus 2 TVs, Omega Constellation watches and other fabulous Philips home entertainment appliances.



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To qualify for the grand draw, a minimum purchase of Philips products worth P5,000 is required. Entries must be sent through text message in this format: Philips <space> storename/ location/ lastname/ Or no./ amount of purchase firstname <space>lastname> lastname / address. For Globe and Sun Cellular subscribers, send text message to 2366 and for Smart and Talk 'N Text, 269.

Rush now to the nearest appliance stores to get the best audio-video appliances from Philips and have more chances of winning in the "Best of Europe 2" promo.

See posters and print ads for more details.

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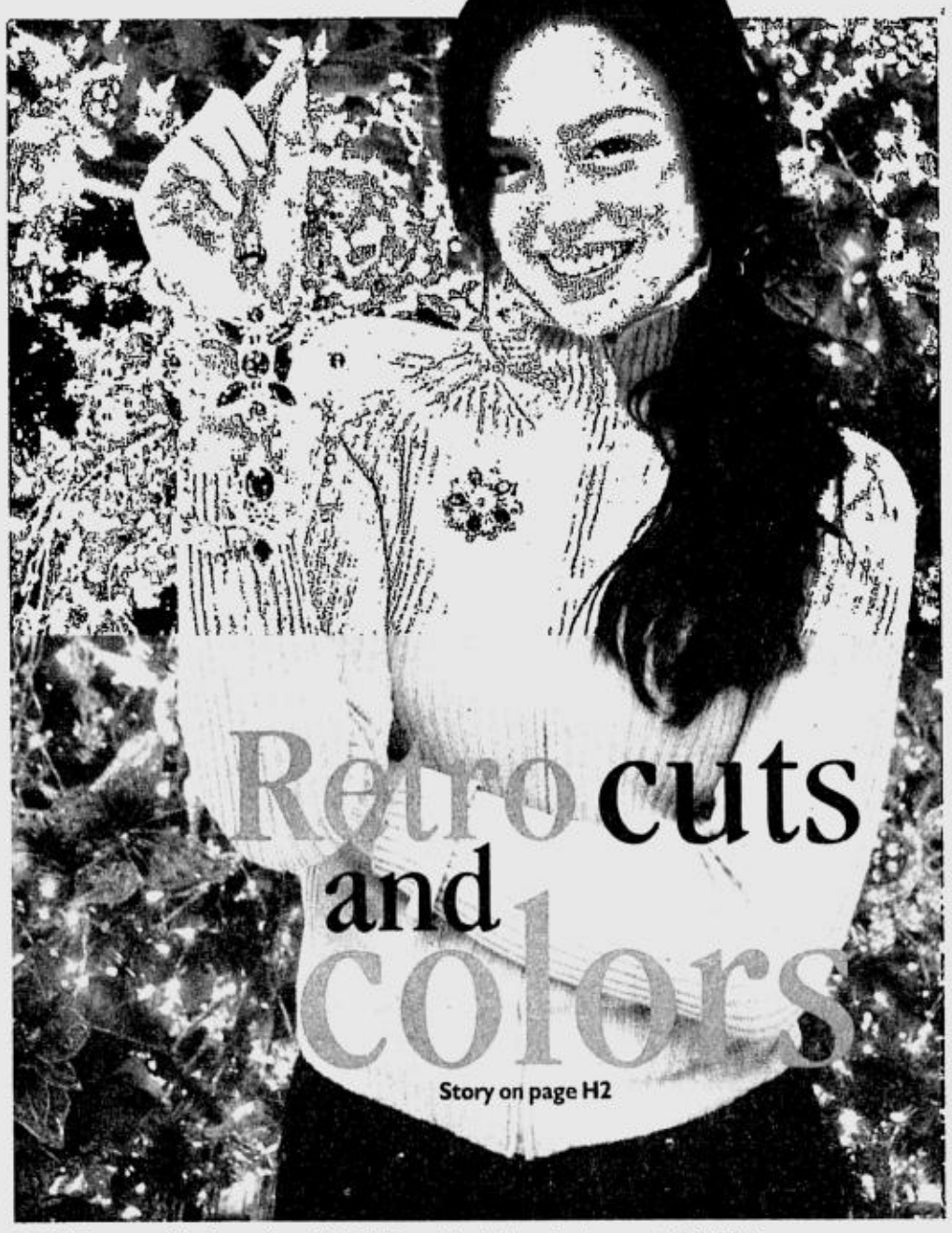

Retro cuts and colors

Story on page H2

LIGHT-green ribbed cardigan (P2,650) and dark blue denim pants (P1,850)

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-78/ Series of 20[illegible] As approved by DTI-NCR

We are temporarily closing our doors soon to create a better shopping experience for you.
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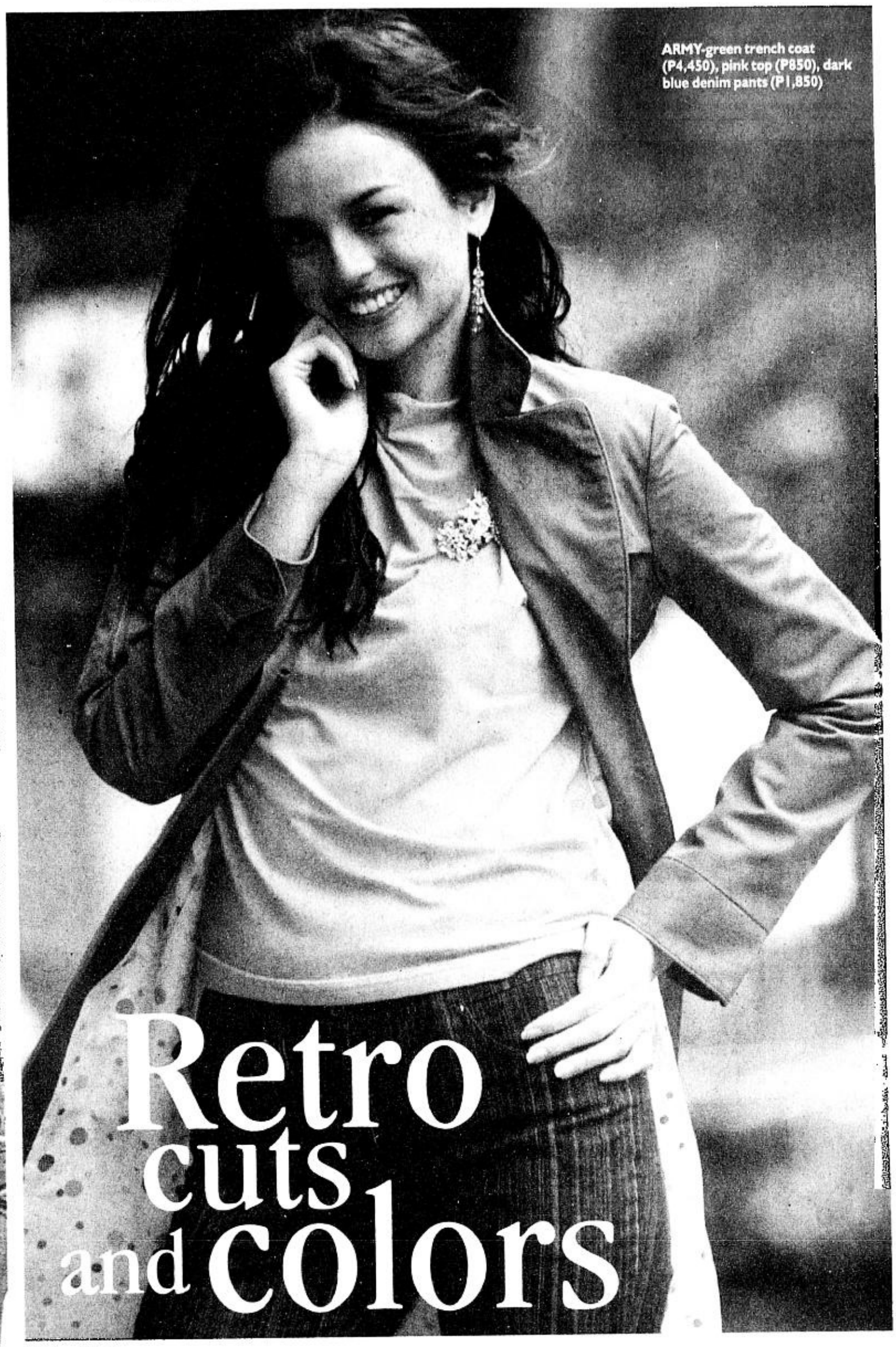
Per DTI Permit No. A3-838, Series of 2004

AQUA-striped T-shirt (P 395), black long-sleeved hooded sweater (P2,450), gray pants (P2,250)

BLUE cardigan (P2,250), sleeveless cowl-neck blouse (P1,950), black pants (P2,250), lavender long-sleeved sweater (P1,950), checkered drawstring pants (P2,250)



ARMY-green trench coat (P4,450), pink top (P850), dark blue denim pants (P1,850)

Retro cuts and colors

By Gem Padilla
Contributor

THIS the season to be jolly, and Colour Eighteen fashion is here to spice up your holiday getups.

Sporty, trendy, youthful, the fall/holiday collection of Colour Eighteen has all the elements of the fun '80s. Groove to distressed print striped trousers, techno cotton trenches with polka dot lining and multi-colored bags.

The retro-inspired collection comes in an array of bold colors to complement the holidays such as electric pink, vibrant orange, intense purple, bright red and rich brown.

So this season, as you enjoy the festivities, have a little '80s pop culture color and fun minus the matching big hair and makeup.

MAKEUP: BEM ABELADE
MODELS: GEORGINA WILSON, MARICAR REYES
STYLING: ROSARIO HERRERA OF STYLELAB
VENUE: GREENBELT 3 AYALA CENTER MAKATI
COLOUR EIGHTEEN IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:
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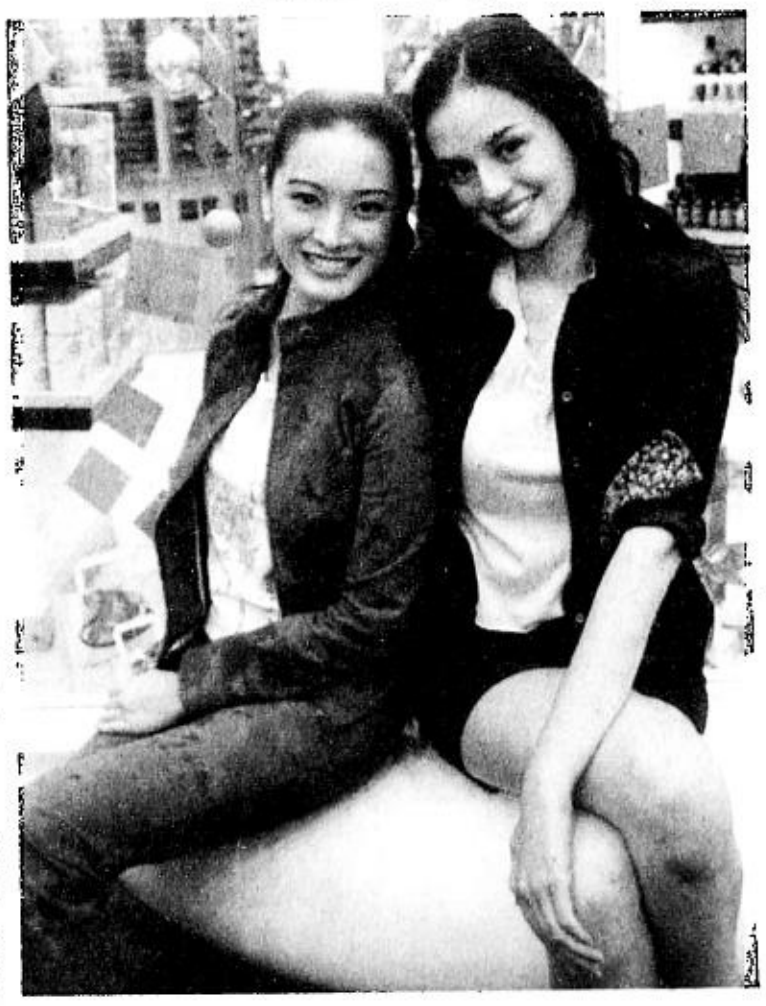
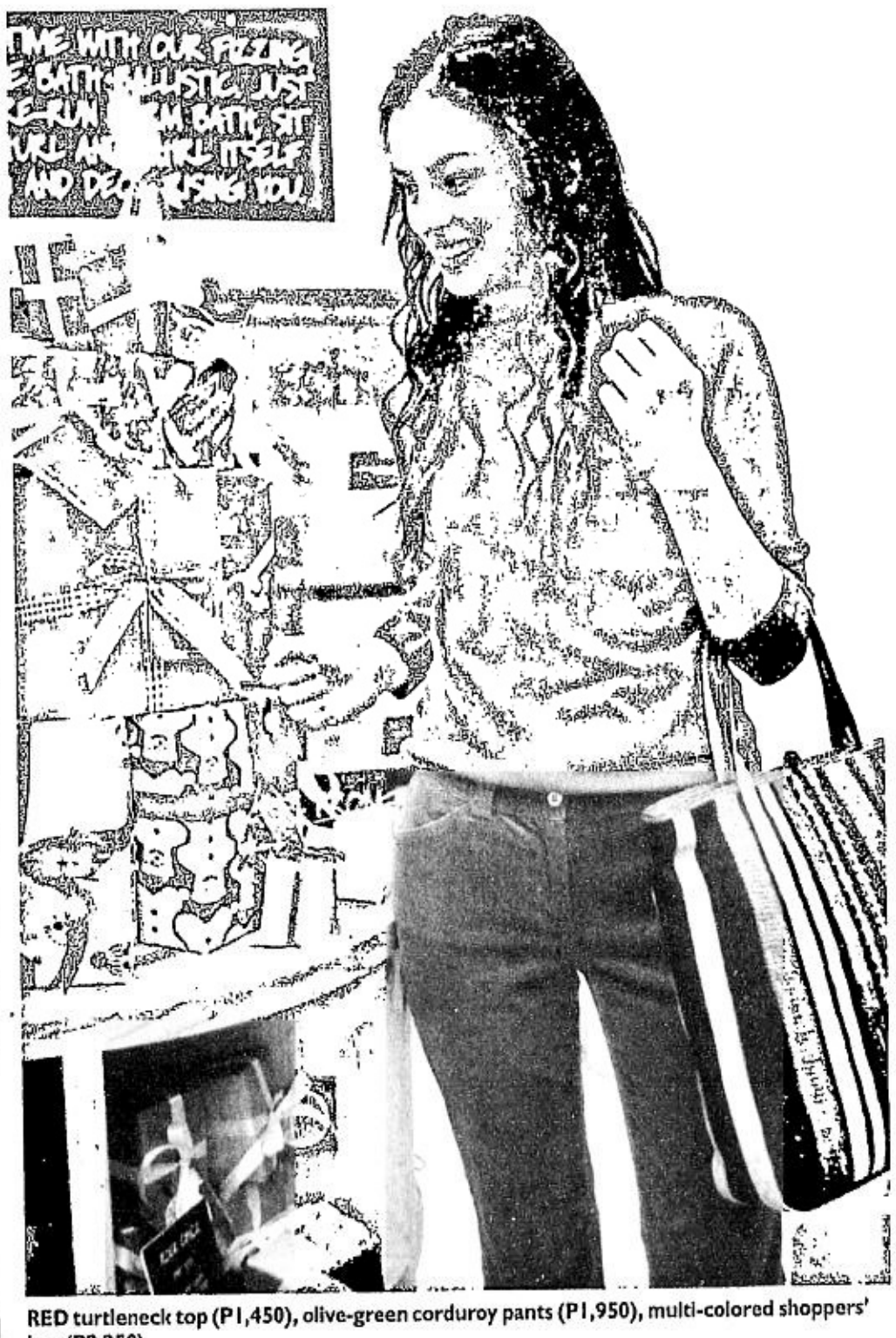
SCARF (P995), red-ribbed knitted blouse (P1,450), gray pants (P2,250)



DARK-brown corduroy jacket (P3,250), dark-brown corduroy skirt (P1,650), white shirt with print (P1,450), olive-green denim pants (P2,650), olive-green denim jacket (P3,450), pink blouse (P1,650)



RED turtleneck top (P1,450), olive-green corduroy pants (P1,950), multi-colored shoppers' bag (P2,250)

1st Draw
4pm Dec 11

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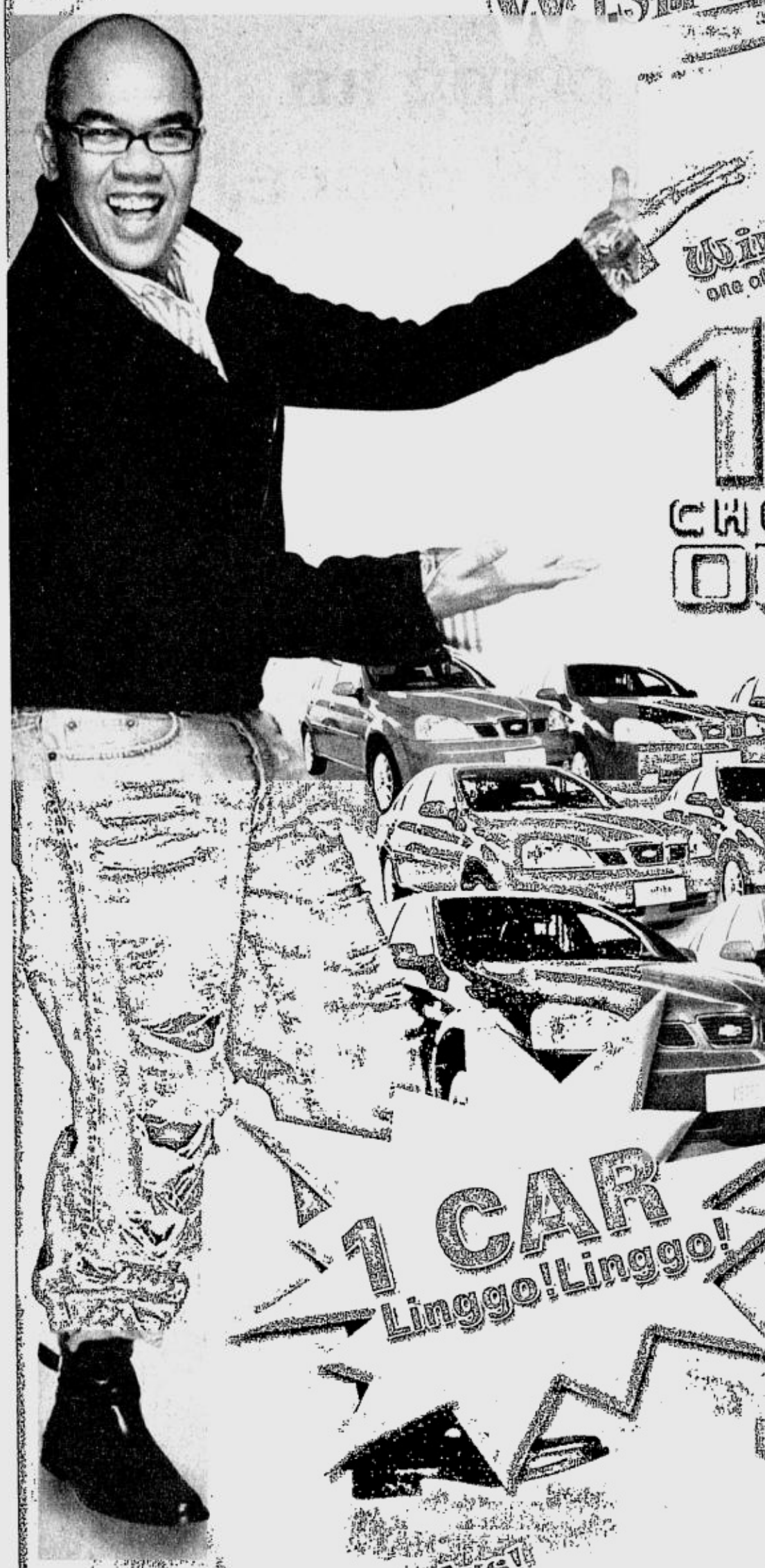
Dec 1 - Feb 25 '05



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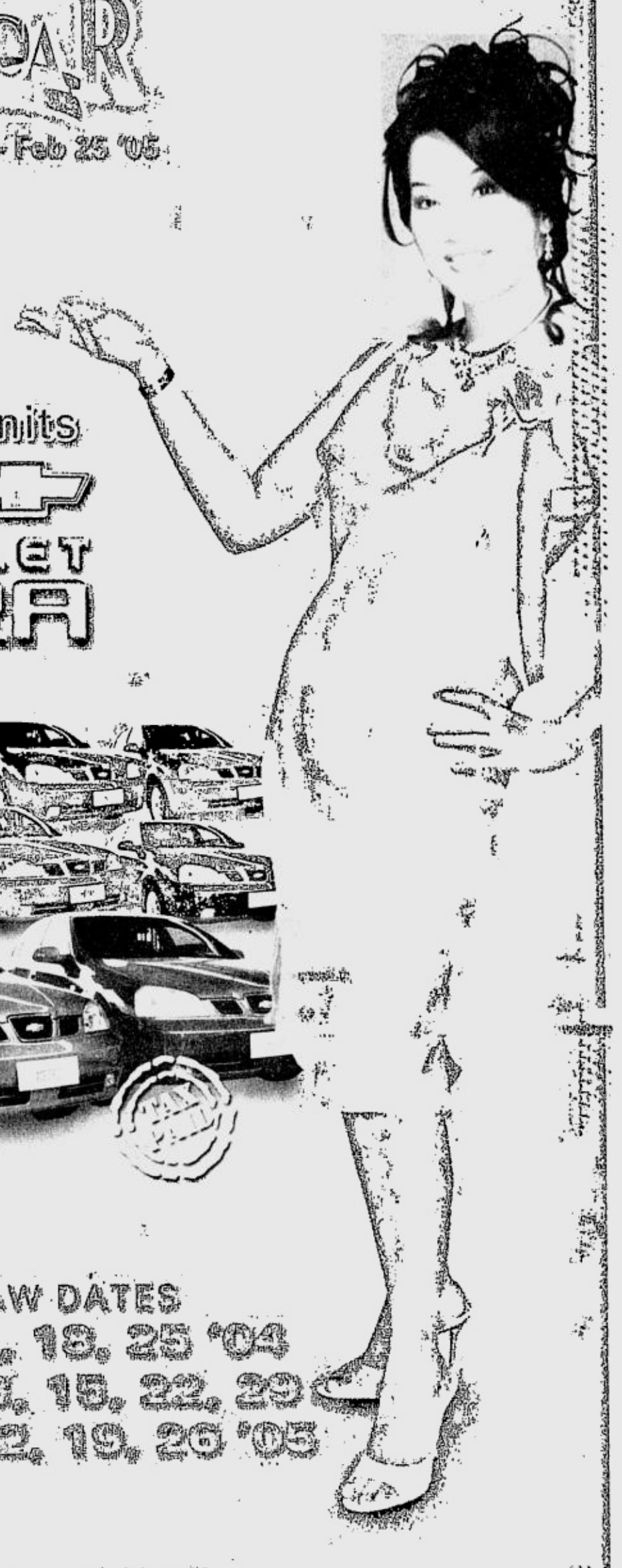

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Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 '05

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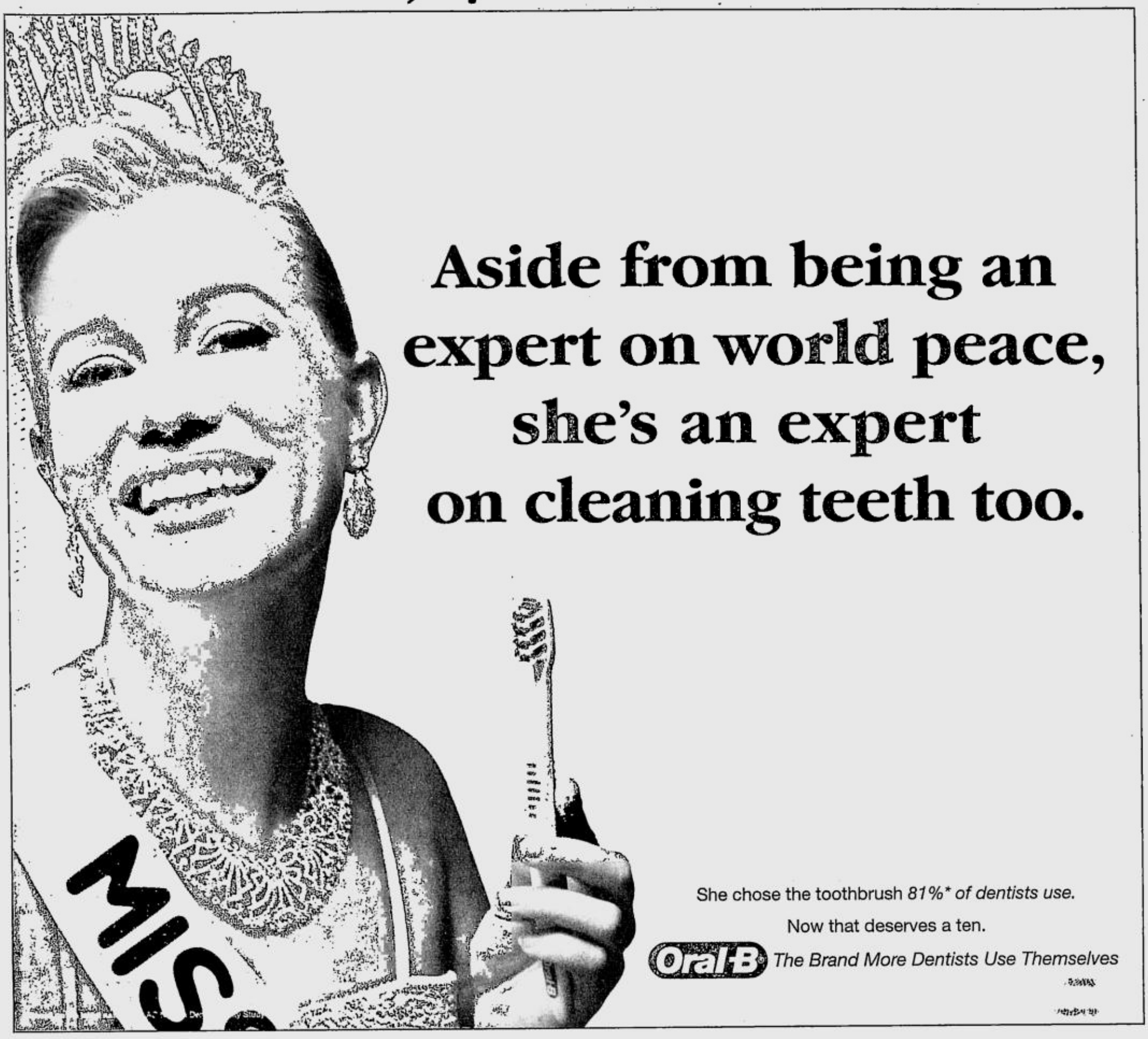

PRINCIPAL Citibank cardholders can share the benefits of their credit card with their loved ones this Christmas and enjoy loads of exciting freebies.

By applying now for a Citibank supplementary card or cards, cardholders will not have to pay the first year fees for up to seven supplementary cards. That means savings of up to P4,200 for Silver and Clear cardholders and P8,750 for Gold cardholders. The Citibank supplementary card also comes in a free special gift packaging if application is submitted on or before Dec. 15.

With a Citibank supplementary credit card, principal cardholders can have better control of their finances since they can assign spending limits starting at P5,000 depending on the spending needs of loved ones.

Principal cardholders receive a consolidated bill that summarizes and monitors purchases made by each supplementary card member. Moreover, even if one of the cards gets lost or damaged, the other cardholders can still use theirs.

Offer is valid until Dec. 31 only.

To apply for a supplementary card, call 4233000 today, or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

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MARC Mignon, Manny Pocorro, Richie Peñalosa and Gilbert Joven, all Nestlé officers, and Mon Garcia, McCann Erickson officer; Jojo Tongco, Nestle president; Salvador Pigem and wife Monserrat; Sherilla Bayona; and Sherlyn Cunanan

A very French welcome for a new arrival

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

THAT night, it seemed as if three or four parties were going on at once in Cosmo Manille. Wrong, *palanggas*. Actually, there were five in Makati alone, and one of them had a stream of traffic heading in the direction of the NBC Tent at The Fort for the year's biggest bash to welcome the arrival of Beaujolais Nouveau, which was flown in by Air France/KLM.

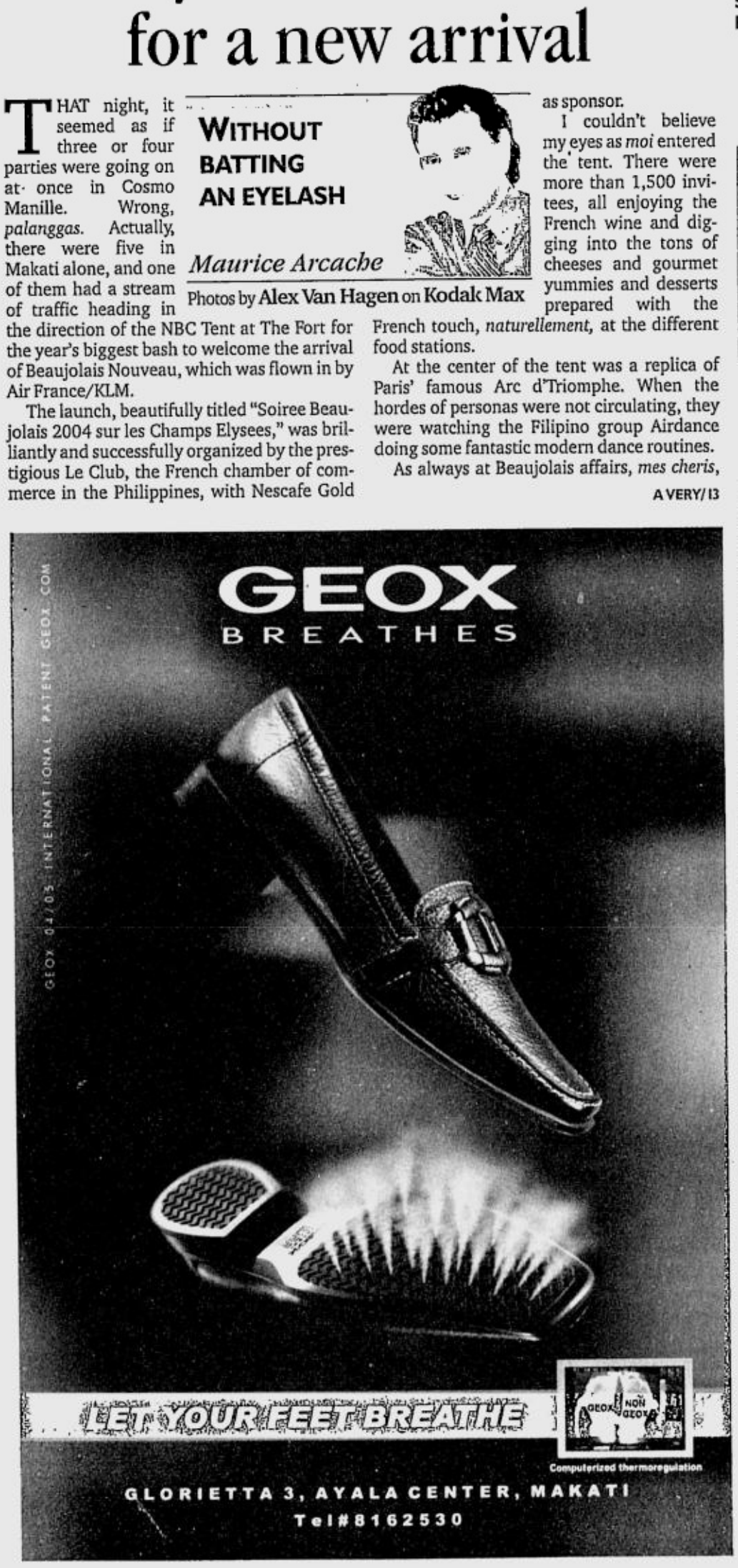
The launch, beautifully titled "Soiree Beaujolais 2004 sur les Champs Elysees," was brilliantly and successfully organized by the prestigious Le Club, the French chamber of commerce in the Philippines, with Nescafe Gold as sponsor.

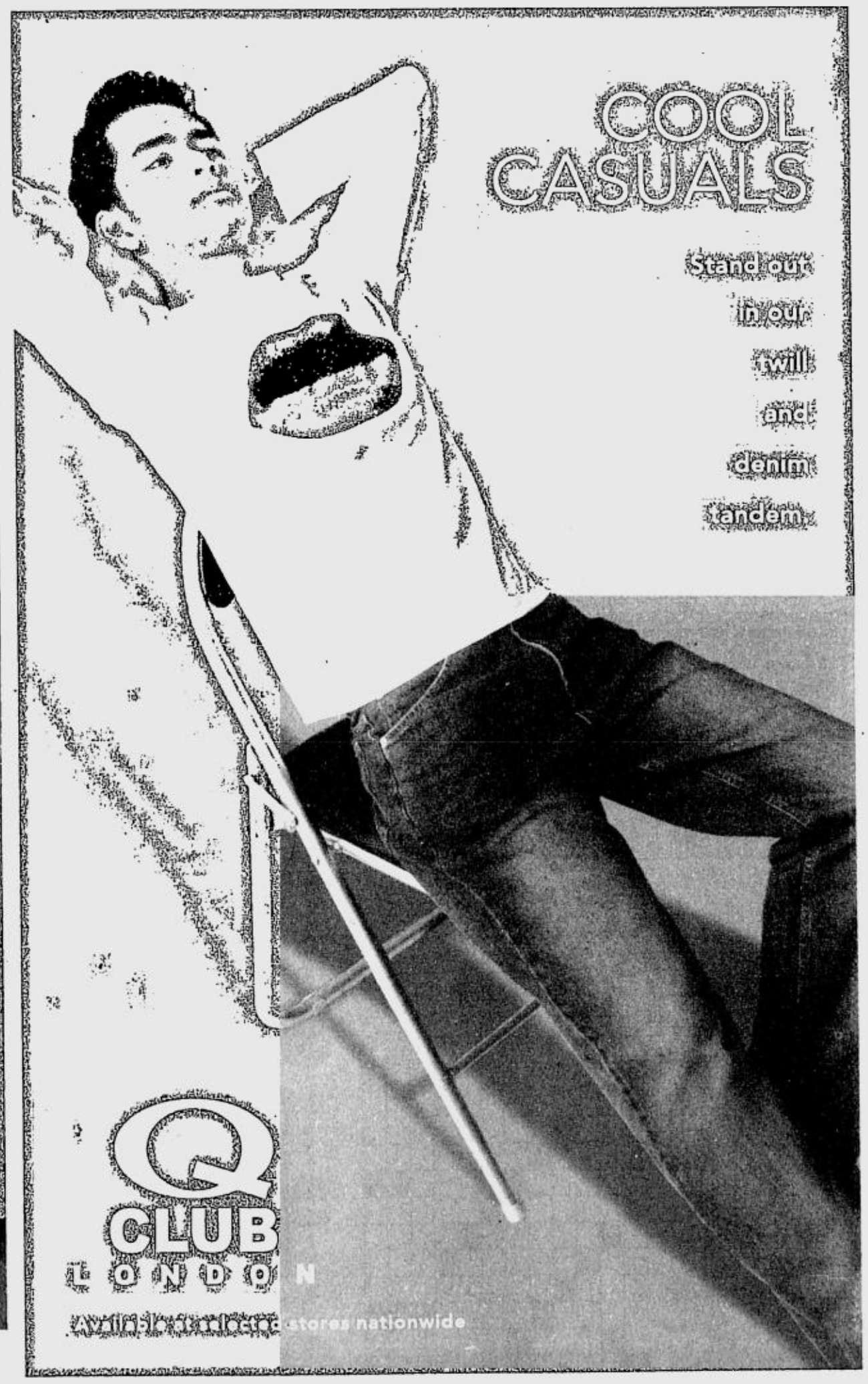
I couldn't believe my eyes as *moi* entered the tent. There were more than 1,500 invitees, all enjoying the French wine and digging into the tons of cheeses and gourmet yummies and desserts prepared with the French touch, *naturellement*, at the different food stations.

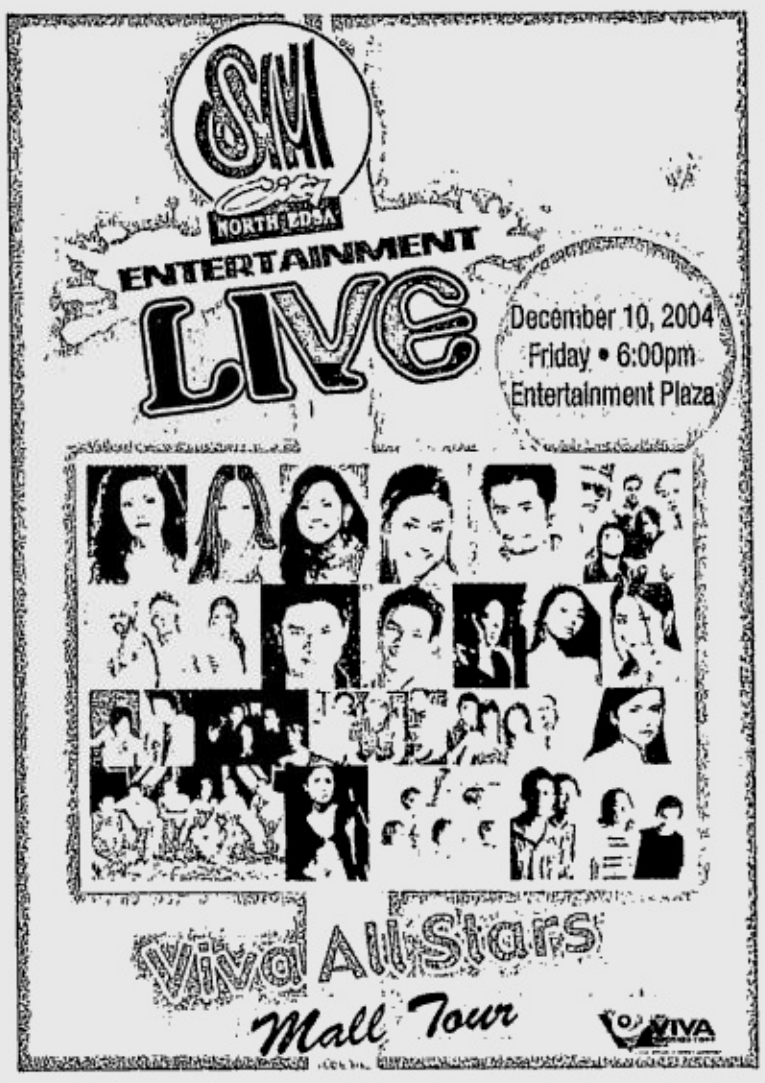
At the center of the tent was a replica of Paris' famous Arc d'Triomphe. When the hordes of personas were not circulating, they were watching the Filipino group Airdance doing some fantastic modern dance routines.

As always at Beaujolais affairs, *mes cheris*,

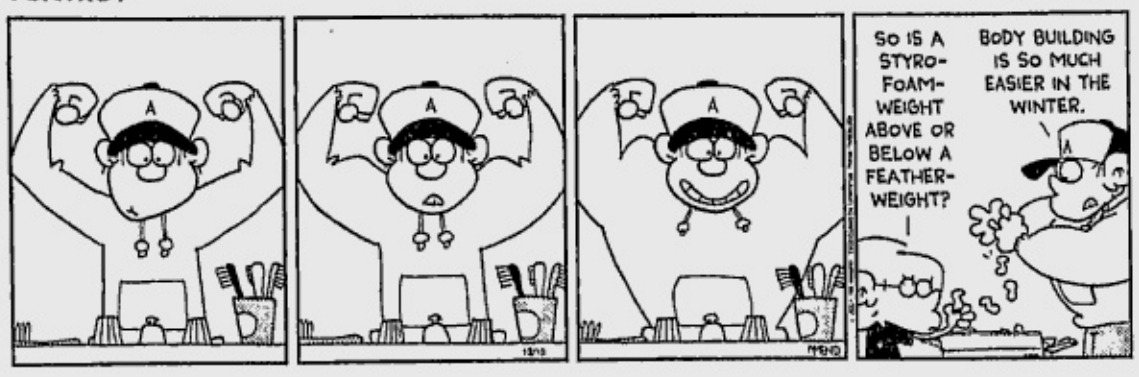
A VERY/ I3







FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a complex individual. Outwardly, you appear breezy and friendly. But inwardly, you are deep and profound. It's important for you to find something you believe in. You are idealistic. You need to put your faith in something. You are a gentle, understanding leader. The year ahead holds exciting, new beginnings!
Birthdate of: Dan Blocker, actor; Kenneth Branagh, actor; Susan Dey, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might have to deal with matters from the past that are connected with the media and publishing. Travel plans might be delayed or need readjustments.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're forced to rehash old agreements with ex-partners or even current partners about how something is shared. This could refer to property, responsibilities or people.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You definitely have to deal with ex-partners and old friends now. It's old business that has to be re-established or rethought in order to settle things.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): At times it feels as if your job is slipping backward! Communication with co-workers is like two ships passing in the night; and silly, little errors seem to occur everywhere.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Now you have to focus on something from your past related to children, the arts, professional sports, the entertainment world or the hospitality industry. Listen carefully.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ruler, Mercury, is retrograde now. That's why you're having car problems, missing buses, losing bits of paper, books or keys and confusing appointments with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Make sure you pay your phone bill (including your cell phone). Your communications with others are interrupted or confused now. The delays can affect your transportation as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might run into people you used to work with before. Various things from the past that are connected with your job are likely to turn up today.

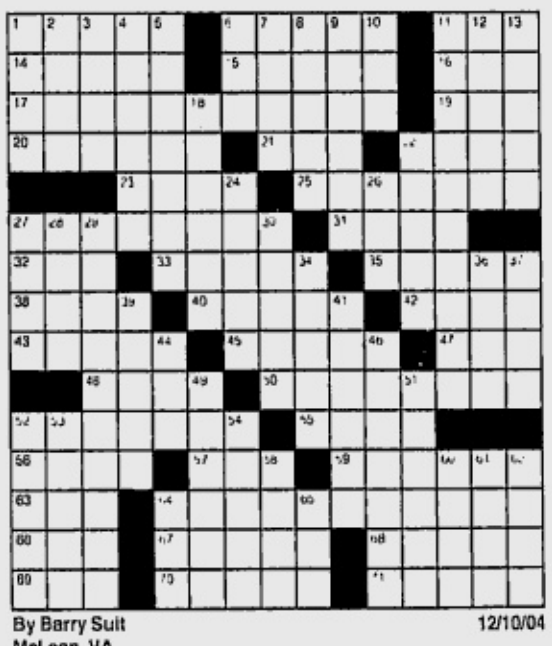
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Retrograde Mercury is in your sign. This definitely attracts partners from your past right to your door! Look upon it as an opportunity to settle old matters or reestablish relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to finish up problems connected with the government or large institutions that you've been dealing with. Don't start new projects yet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): All kinds of old friends seem to be coming out of the woodwork! No matter what you do, you're bumping into people from your past. (It's good to have history with others.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might meet an old boss now. Some of you will have to tackle old subjects with parents once again. It feels like two steps forward, one step back. Courage!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Suit
McLean, VA
12/10/04

ACROSS
1 Fanatical
6 Thingamajig
11 In what way?
14 Without support
15 Extraterrestrial
16 Mary of "Where Eagles Dare"
17 See 30D
19 Tonic's partner
20 Basic beliefs
21 Totality
22 Take note of
23 __ contendere
25 Impressive display
27 Abuse
31 Iditarod terminus
32 Neighbor of Miss.
33 Letter base
35 Vice __
38 Lo-cal
40 Flower part
42 Fast fliers' letters
43 __ Ingalls Wilder
45 Carps and minnows
47 On the market
48 Latvian capital
50 Big name in video games
52 Musical performance
55 Molecular component
56 Madame Bovary
57 Paunch
59 Wear out the welcome mat
63 Seinfeld's uncle
64 See 30D
66 Conceit
67 Change to fit
68 Intestine segment
69 Prohibit
70 River through Paris
71 Serengeti predator

DOWN
1 Simple craft
2 __ vera
3 Windfall
4 Purpose
5 Those who owe
6 Guy's date
7 Misfortunes
8 Fasten your jacket
9 Ethel of Broadway
10 Yoko __
11 See 30D
12 Bay window
13 "Peter Pan" girl
18 In the arms of Morpheus
22 Residences
24 Having paddles
26 Armistice Day mo.
27 Shopping center
28 Pelvic bones
29 See 30D
30 Definition of 17A, 64A, 11D and 29D
34 Dashboard of an English car
36 Poker variation
37 Concerning
39 Writer Jong
41 Living in still waters
44 Biographical datum
46 Tolerate
49 Sock pattern
51 Put to work
52 Show-biz notable
53 Greek letter
54 Little Richard hit, "__ Frutti"
58 Next
60 Eye amorously
61 Anon
62 Novelist Ferber
64 Bell and Barker
65 Rage

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

F	A	D		P	A	B	L	O		V	I	S	A	S
A	T	E		A	V	A	I	L		E	R	U	P	T
C	O	N	Q	U	E	R	E	D	G	R	A	P	E	S
I	N	T	E	L				H	E	S	S	E		
A	C	E	D		O	E	B	A	T	E		R	A	W
L	E	D		C	O	V	E	T		P	E	S	O	
			S	A	G	E	S		M	A	R	G	I	N
	H	A	I	S	I	N	T	H	E	R	O	O	F	
D	E	C	R	E	E		M	A	R	K	S			
A	N	T	E			M	A	R	I	S		W	E	T
M	O	I		M	E	A	N	I	T		W	I	R	Y
		V	A	U	L	T			H	O	N	O	R	
P	E	A	R	S	O	U	T	H	U	A	K	O	T	A
A	R	T	I	E		R	U	R	A	L		N	I	N
W	E	E	D	S		E	T	H	Y	L		A	C	T

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12/10/04

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

AHH! Sante! A Beaujolais: Roger Ferrari, Bernard Flour and Michel Hermelin

RAFAEL Alunan III, Louis-Paul Heussaff and Air France general manager Louis Vergeon

BEAUJOLAIS wine is their choice. Stan Hilker with tall head-turner Sylvia Jarzebowska and Jeremy Cliff

THE FRENCH connection. Good-looking threesome Guillaume Desroes, Boom Ghou Lam and Gregory Le Henand

A very French welcome to a new arrival

SUPER Francophiles. Dorney Venturanza, Babes Pekelharry and Mara D'Aboville

From page 11

WINE CONNOSIUERS. Dashing French businessman Eric Dudoignon-Velade with his wife, Sen. Jamby Madrigal

RESPECTED author and columnist Carmen Navarro Pedroza with business heavyweight Yves Cadilhon

US Embassy's popular AJ Joes III and party boy Pepper Teehankee

FORBES Rotary gals Gretchen Recto and Yaying Dragon

BARBIE Pastoral and Let Sedano

loads of valuable items were up for grabs in a raffle beautifully hosted by eye-catching fun gals **Leah Navarro, Pinky Amador** and vivacious **Tessa Prieto-Valdes.**

The prize catch of the night was a cool round-trip ticket to-Paris, courtesy of Air France and KLM, and the free use of a brand-new Peugeot for 17 days. Among other fab prizes were round-trip ticket to Boracay from Asian Spirit; a gorgeous pearl necklace worth $2,000, plus other jewelry courtesy of Jewelmer; Citizen watches; and a to-die-for Chinese antique furniture set worth a cool P110,000.

Giving away the tickets were two hotshots of the airline world—Air France's super popular general manager **Louis Vergeon** and KLM's mega secret weapon, brilliant country manager **Joey Laurente.**

Needless to say, dahlings, the most popular booth, and voted "The Best" by the tons of true-blue party animals who packed the venue, was Nescafe Gold's—a super eye-catching sidewalk café dispensing cups of piping-hot coffee.

This year, *palanggas,* Le Club members and invitees came together in what was to be the largest Beaujolais event in Asia, to celebrate not just the exquisite taste of one of France's best-known products but also that of what is widely regarded as "the best coffee in the world."

For your information, *mes cheris,* Le Club is a non-profit organization created to promote French business in the Philippines and to promote the Philippines in France. Its president is the hardworking, popular businessman **Philippe Gauthier.**

Glorious food, tons of cheese, an endless flow of cool Beaujolais Nouveau, topped with the hot new Premium Nescafe Gold Coffee—everyone went home happy, with many going home boozed up. Well, that's what a great party is all about.

This super bash showed everyone how the French really did things, *n'est-ce pas?*

Induction ball and dinner

There is one big bang all over the world this year as the Rotary Club celebrates—take note, *palanggas*—100 years of service and fellowship this 2004-2005. So there I was with the Rotary Club of posh Makati Forbes Park, which was holding its 8th Induction Ball and Dinner at the ever popular New World Hotel ballroom.

Aprés I was escorted to my

A VERY/ 14

HOT NAMEDROPPABLES at the turnover ceremonies: past president Efren Palabyab with his wife, Ann Clare P.; gorgeous Carmen G. and her husband Leo Garcia with a gavel, symbol of club authority and responsibility; and Ann Linda P. and her hubby, president Ben Pastoral for Rotary Makati 2004-2005

THE NEW powers-that-be of Rotary Club Makati Forbes. Helmut Wuzella with his wife, Lily W.; Ed Tan and his favorite baby, Baby Tan; and Jojo S. with her husband Edwin Salonga

COFFEE addicts. Beautiful couple Paqui Campos and wife Lilibeth Fernandez, with close pals Elena Arias and Rossana Peña

ALBERTO Pedroza

Support
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

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December 18-19, 2004 (Saturday & Sunday)
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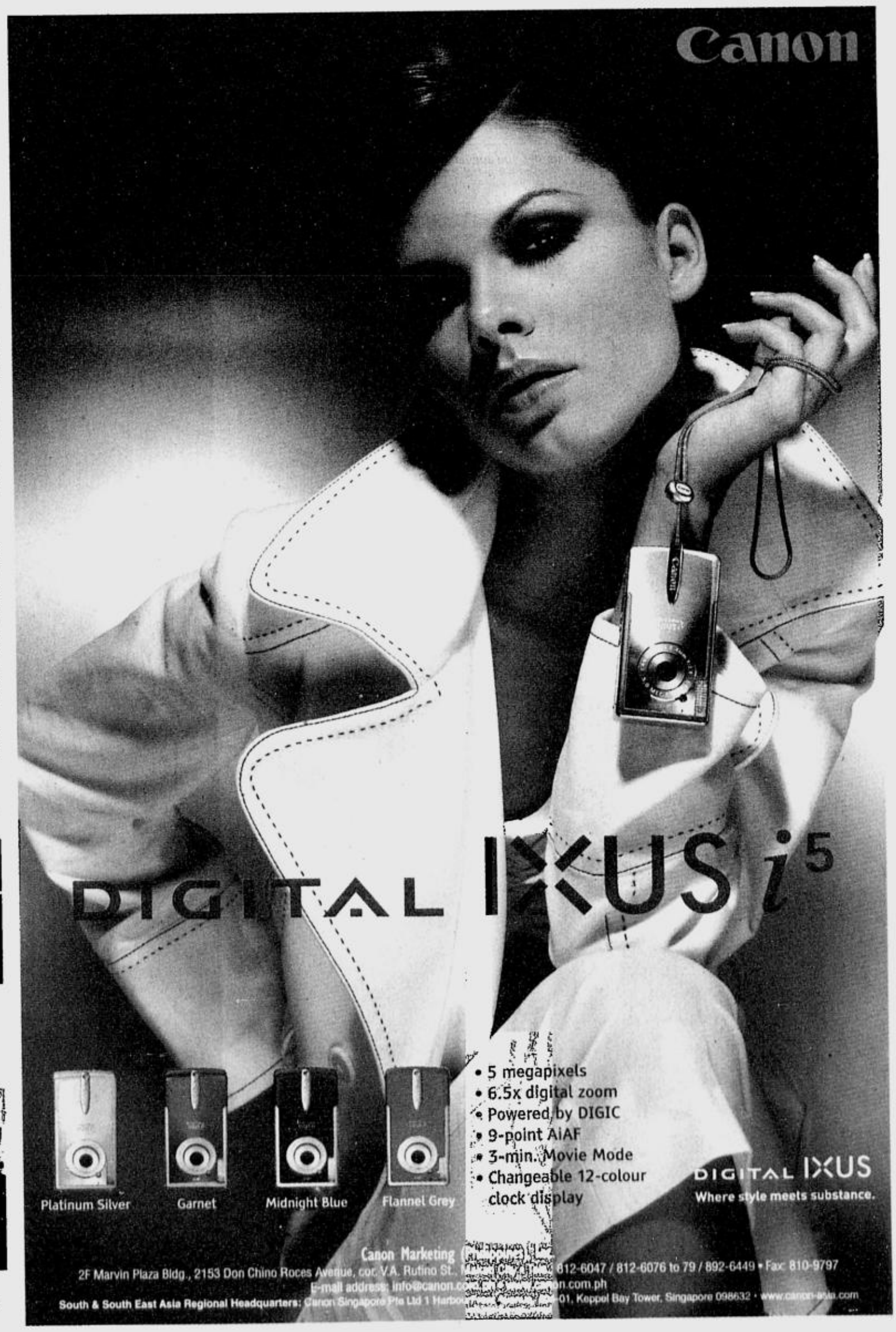

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CONGRESSIONAL 2/F Q Plaza Bldg.
PAMPANGA TEL: 961-3404, 3/F Dan's Mktg. Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 233-7831 Unit 1203 Keppel Centre

A very French welcome

From page 13

table and after a couple of "hellos" to some friends, the ceremonies begun with outgoing president, tycoon **Efren Palabyab**, handing over the club's symbol of authority, "the gavel," to the new club president, business magnate **Ben Pastoral**.

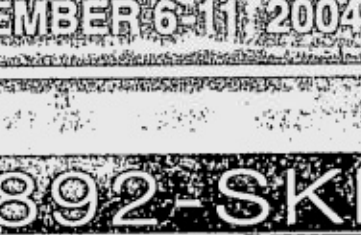
Though I had to dash off to another happening, I made it a point to stay a bit and listen to one of my favorite TV hosts and columnists, the absolutely vivacious and brilliant professor **Solita Monsod**, who was the club's shimmering guest speaker. When Solita speaks, everyone listens, dahlings. She did the most interesting short talk, receiving tons of applause, with me leading the pack.

Also inducted as a support group for the club were members of the Rotary Anns of Makati Forbes Park, led by First Ann, **Linda Pastoral**, *natch*!

To perk up the affair, the Rotarians and their Anns presented a medley of dances called "Bailes de Honor."

Rushing down the staircase of New World, I could hear **Gloria** and her band rocking the ballroom, with Rotarians and their Anns partying till 2 a.m., I was told.

Special moments.

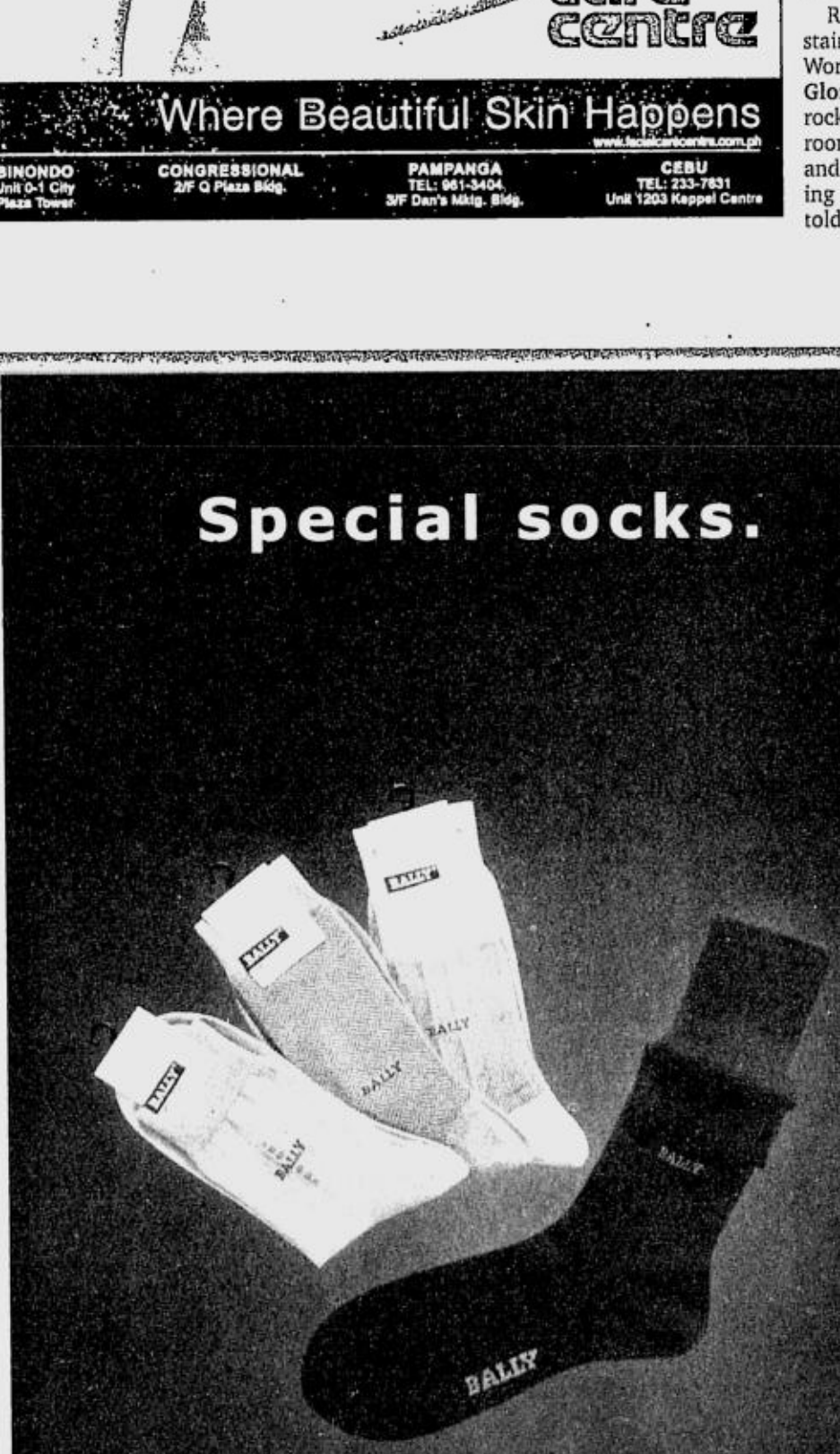


Business Meeting

Dinner Date

Weekend Get together

Special socks.



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Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

New travel and lifestyle mag launched

A FASHION show by eight of the country's top designers —Jeannie Goulbourn for Silk Cocoon, Gerry Katigbak, Steve de Leon, Peter Lim, Edgar Madamba, Lito Perez, Barge Ramos, and Edgar San Diego—and a photo exhibit highlighted the recent launch of Experience Philippines.

A new magazine that aims to encourage local travel and showcase the best of Filipino living to promote tourism, Experience Philippines was launched at the Le Salon Ballroom of Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila on Pedro Gil Street corner M. H. del Pilar in Malate, Manila.

The photo exhibit included the works of George Tapan, Donald Tapan, Willie Avila, Tesz and Edwin Celestino, Rommel Caina, Harvey Tapan, and Holger Horn.

Overall event and creative director was Austria with Al Coronan as production designer, Jun Gomez as technical and lights director, and Gerry Katigbak as fashion show director.

Hair and makeup were by Kaizen Salon International, Emphasis Salon and Salon de Manila.

The new all-color, glossy quarterly will feature interesting destinations and stories on the country's people, culture, traditions, cur-

NEW/ J4

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ON HIM: blue sport shirt and cap. On her: red sweat jacket and sun visor

HUMAN red-hot sports shirt and tracktor cap

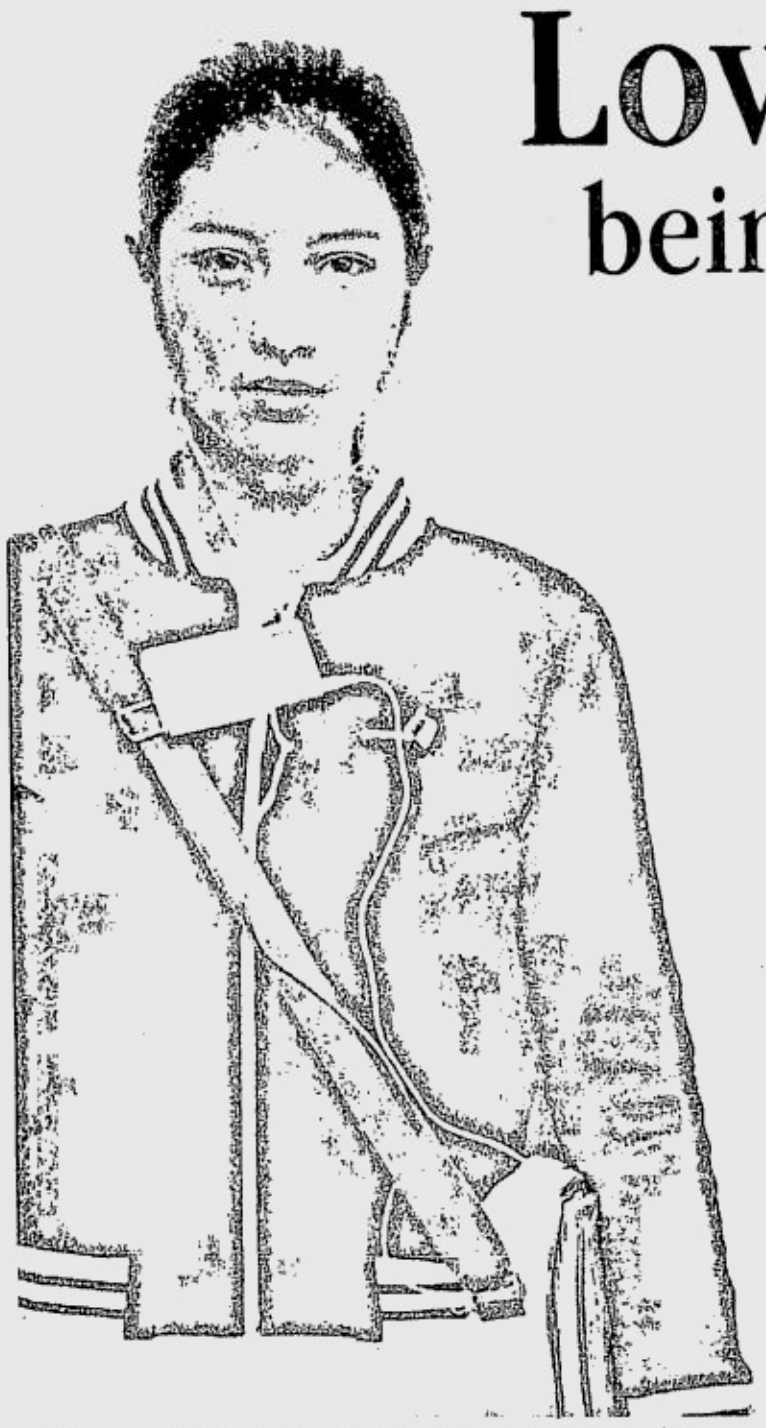
Loving music, being human

YOU are what you listen to—especially when your music comes packaged in something as hip as the newest iPod.

The iPod comes in a variety of colors to match any outfit, particularly those that come from the hip brand Human.

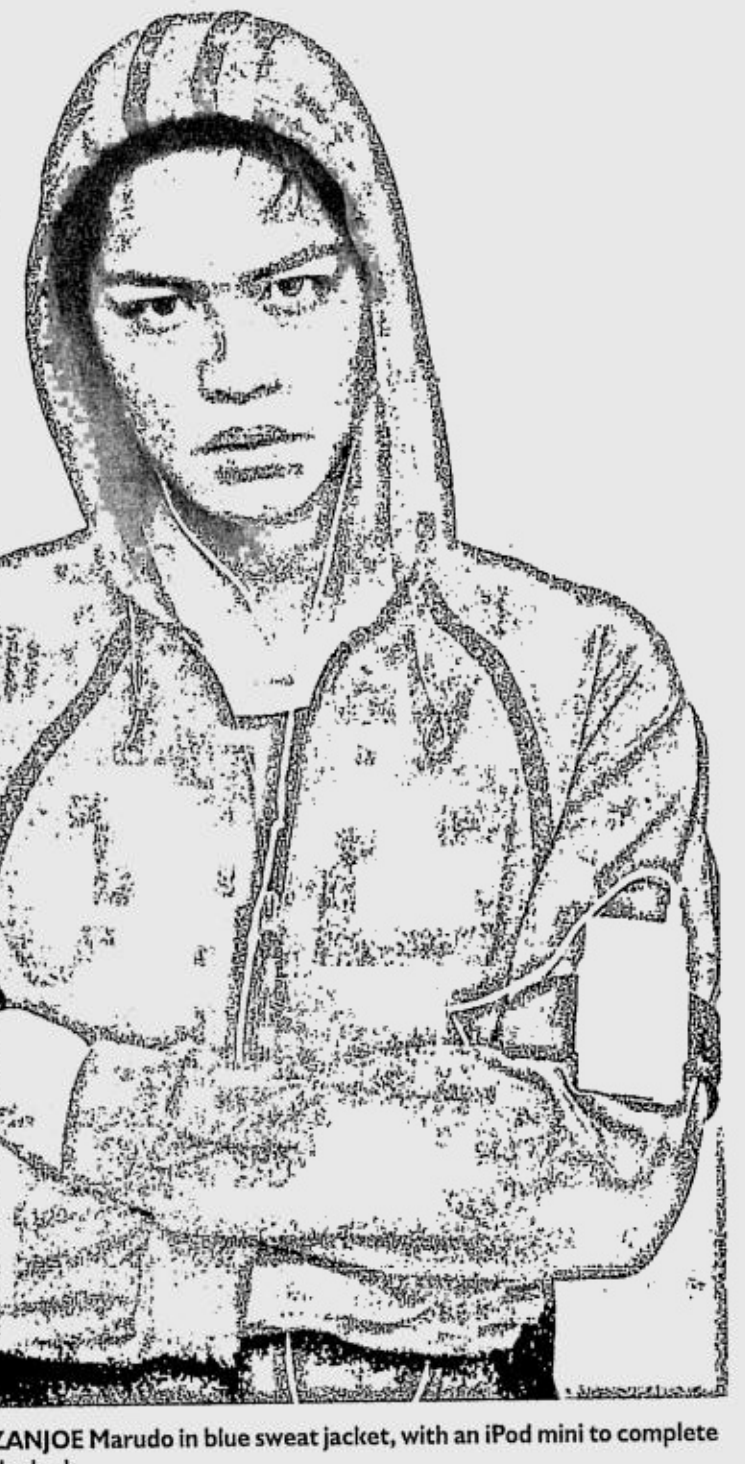
Human and iPod make an irresistible fashion statement, as top models Bubbles Paraiso and Zanjoe Marudo show in this fashion shoot.

STYLING BY KEREN PASCUAL
SHOT ON LOCATION AT HUMAN, GLORIETTA 3



BUBBLES Paraiso shows what the "it" girl must have: cool blue Human sweat jacket and silver iPod mini.

ON HER: white shirtdress and red bag. On him: red tank top and wrist band



ZANJOE Marudo in blue sweat jacket, with an iPod mini to complete the look

Plus-size fashion store in Cubao

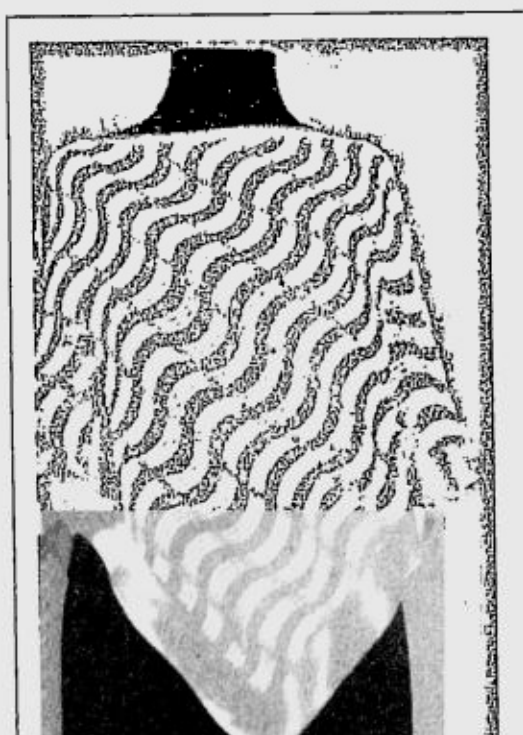
LUSCIOUS, the brand exclusively designed for the plus-size yet sophisticated women of today, is set to open a second outlet at the 2/L Gateway Mall in Cubao, Araneta Center this December.

One of the pioneers in serving the fashion requirements of plus-size women, Luscious features a whole range of clothing and accessories that are distinctly chic and flatters the figure for that sexy look every plus-size woman desires.

The store offers sizes 10 to 28 with a wide selection of tops, pants, skirts, knits, and evening wear in various styles.

The soon-to-open Gateway branch will complement the first Luscious store at the Goldcrest Building in Ayala Center.

Call 8923885 and 8175620, or e-mail luscious_plus@vahoo.com



CHIFFON poncho and straight black pants

TERRY cloth track suit

CHIFFON kimono blouse with sequins and denim disco pants

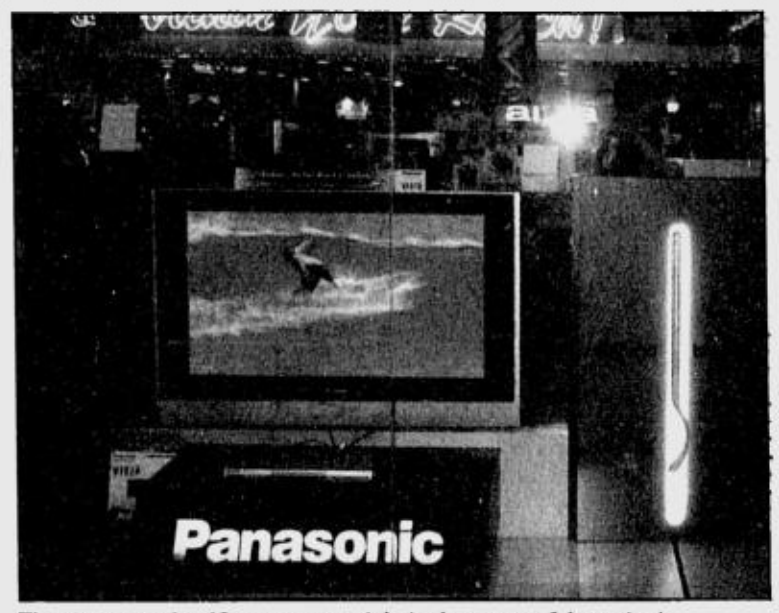
KNITTED poncho with diagonal stripe

STYLES are meant to flatter the figure

Panasonic Viera shows its true beauty at Western Marketing

The new Panasonic Viera is now the star of the show at Western Marketing in SM Megamall. The newest Viera Plasma and LCD TVs from Panasonic are showcased at the front window display of the store. Customers were visibly awed by the stylish design and technologically-advanced features of the new Panasonic Viera.

The Viera in all its glory at the Western Marketing showroom at SM Megamall.



The picture-perfect Viera puts you right in the center of the action!

The elegant flowing design of the Viera Flat Panel Display is truly a scene-stealer with its pearl-silver finish and slim panel – a statement of elegance that adds class to any room decor. It can be hung on any flat surface for superb performance and versatility. The crystal-black panel makes the images seem to float in mid-air, so the pictures stand out clear.

Another highlight of the Viera is its superb picture technology. It boasts of a new Real Black Drive System for richer blacks, finest details and impressive depth. Its Full-Digital Processor makes ultra-precise processing of all video signals possible to minimize generation loss. The Viera also has an HD Panel with Bounded Cell Structure that vividly reproduces the tiniest details of images.

Its sound technology has a futuristic Smart Sound Speaker System – a specially-developed speaker system for sound that matches the flowing form. The Viera lets you enjoy a rich, life-like ambience and clear, powerful sound with its ultra-slim speaker design – each unit is only 16mm wide. The new speaker units also blend so well with the cabinet's styling so it's hardly noticeable.

The Viera's networking capability is likewise expansive. It has dual slots for SD or other memory cards so you can enjoy pictures from a digital camera. Other memory card-equipped devices could also be viewed on the Viera with its PCMCIA card slot. Connect it also to a computer to surf the net and view streaming videos.

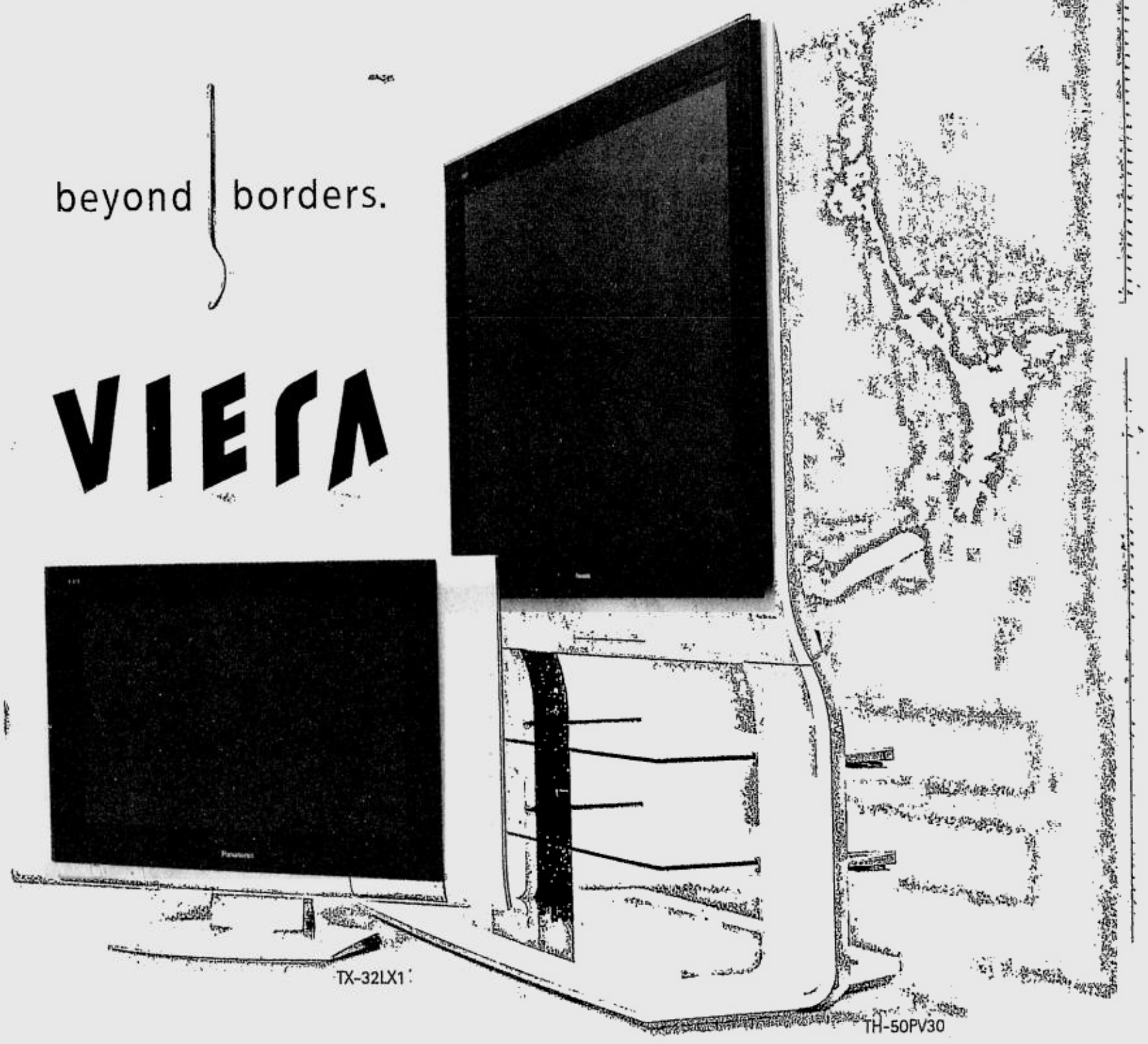
With all these outstanding features plus its stunning looks, the new Panasonic Viera will surely capture one's heart and eyes too. The Viera is one of Panasonic's true ideas that is truly beyond borders. Check out the new Panasonic Viera at Western Marketing located at the Lower Ground Level of Building A in SM Megamall.

True idea

It's an assurance of only the very best.

beyond | borders.

VIERA



• New Real Black Drive System and High-Definition Panel • Smart Sound Speaker System
• Multimedia Networking Capability with SD / PC Card Slots • Elegant Flowing Design

Panasonic

ideas for life

bench/
lifestyle
clothing

EDGAR
San Diego

New travel and lifestyle mag launched

From page J1

rent lifestyle trends, and insights. It will try to provide a comprehensive itinerary and quick access to the most current information.

The magazine will also suggest good eating places, best buys, hot entertainment places, adventure spots, etc.

At the helm of the new publication are Abe Florendo and Zardo Austria. Executive editor Florendo has worked in various publications and has written and edited several coffee-table books.

Experience Philippines editor in chief and creative director Austria was the editor in chief of In Style and Chefs on Parade magazines.

Ma. Evelyn Conejos-Untal heads the management team of the company.

Experience Philippines will be initially free to pre-selected subscribers. In bookstores and retail outlets it will sell for P100 per issue (US $2.50 outside the Philippines).

LITO Perez

ABOVE: (from top) Hyatt Hotel and Casino Philippines marketing director Eugene Tamesis, Edgar Madamba, Experience Philippines editor in chief and creative consultant Zardo Austria, Ma. Evelyn Conejos-Untal, and Steve de Leon. Below: (from top) Edgar San Diego, Barge Ramos, Experience Philippines' Cris Vinzons, designers Lito Perez, Gerry Katigbak, and Peter Lim

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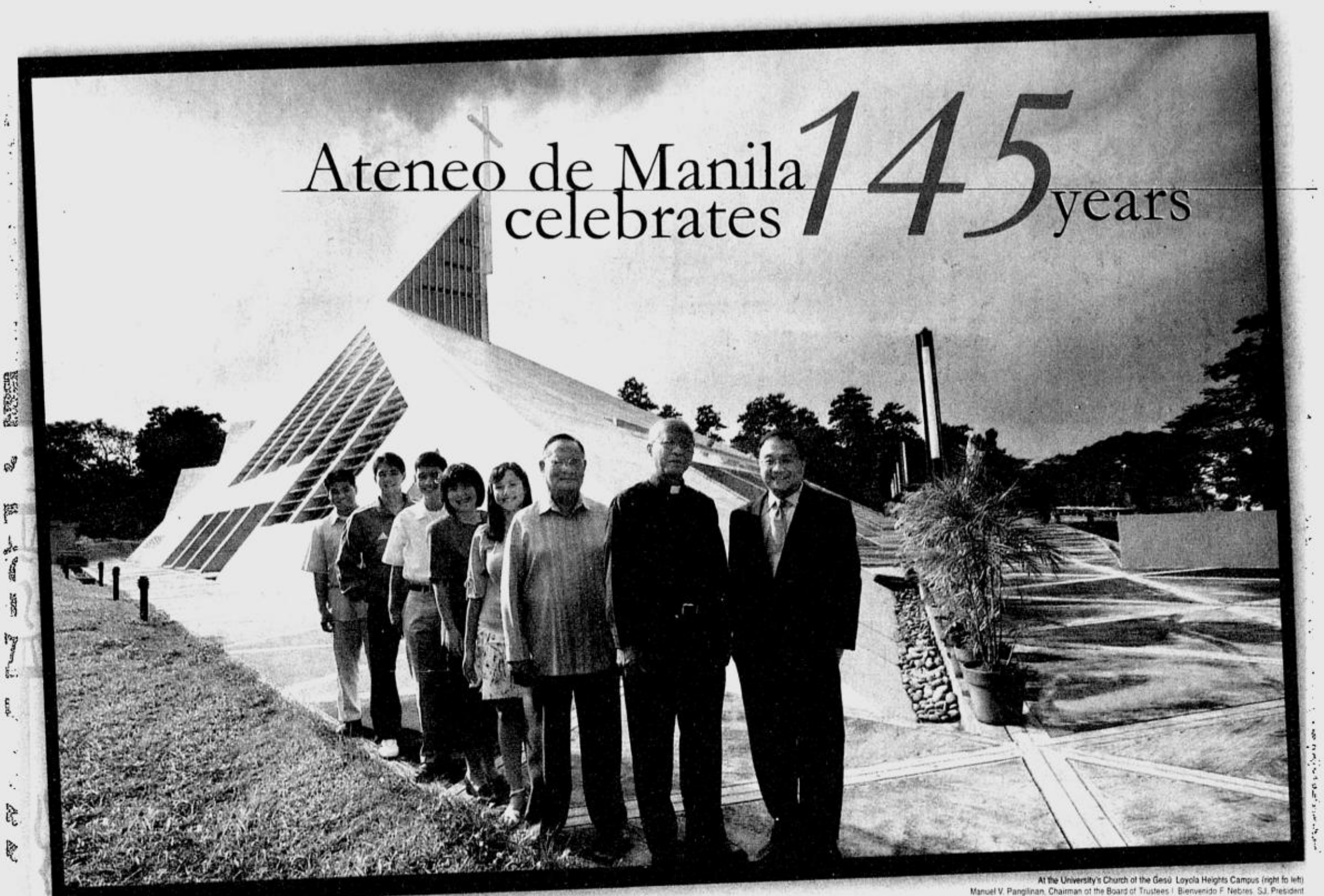
Ateneo de Manila celebrates 145 years



At the University's Church of the Gesù Loyola Heights Campus (right to left)
Manuel V. Pangilinan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees | Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, President
Dr. Alfredo R.A. Bengzon, Vice President for the Ateneo Professional Schools and Dean of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business
Kendra Castillo, BS Physics '04, Summa Cum Laude and Valedictorian, 2004 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines awardee | Queena Lee-Chua, Mathematician, Psychologist, Multi-awarded Teacher and Mentor
Luigi Manzo, Grade 7-Pignatelli, Consistent Magis Student | Chris Tiu, II BS Management Engineering, Dean's Lister, Off-guard of the Ateneo Blue Eagles | Jose Angeles, Year IV-E, Vice Chairman of the Ateneo High School Sanggunian

A View from the Hill at 145

by Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

It all started in 1859 when Father Cuevas, the Jesuit Mission Superior, could not resist the pleas of the burghers of Manila. The Jesuits, expelled from the Philippines a century earlier, had just returned. Their marching order from Father General was to go to Mindanao. Mindanao would remain a target, but other opportunities opened. Thus, by an ordinance of the *Ayuntamiento,* the Ateneo Municipal de Manila was established – with three priests, one brother, thirty-three young boys.

The school was new, the tradition old, reaching back to Coimbra in Portugal, LaFleche in France, Stonyhurst in England, all built on the pillars of the *Ratio Studiorum.* The *Ratio* had produced Francis de Sales, Bossuet, Galileo, Moliere, and would later produce Jose Rizal.

That was the beginning of the Spanish era of the Ateneo. It was an era of intense dedication to Latin and Greek classics. What came out were Filipinos steeped in the faith and capable of producing literature in Spanish.

In 1921, a new era began. Twenty American Jesuits of the Maryland – New York Province, sent by their Polish General in Rome, arrived in Manila. The American Jesuits, like their Spanish predecessors, were also products of the *Ratio Studiorum.* The *Ratio* was to stay. But the new situation called for new devices – English gradually replaced Spanish, the exact sciences came in, together with athletics, debating (often involving public defense of Catholic ideals), and military training.

Tragedy struck in 1932, when fire consumed the Ateneo of Intramuros. The product of seventy memorable years went up in flames. But fire did not extinguish the flame that had been lit by Spanish and American Jesuits.

Three distinctive qualities took root during the years of the American Jesuits: fierce loyalty to the school (in and out of basketball contests!), the habit of independent thought, and the ability to express one's thoughts with ease in English.

World War II and Japanese occupation closed the Ateneo. The American Jesuits were thrown into Japanese concentration camps. Ateneo ROTC cadets died in Bataan and Corregidor. Those who survived suffered the ordeal of the Death March.

Liberation from the Japanese finally came, but once more the ensuing conflagration reduced Ateneo facilities to rubble. But the same Ateneo spirit of the pre-war years lived on and continued to be transmitted in quonset huts in Padre Faura until the move to Loyola Heights in the early 50s.

Loyola Heights would also see turbulent years. The Filipinization movement engulfed the nation and students clamored for an Ateneo with a more Filipino face.

The sharp division between the few rich and the multitudes of poor, often victims of exploitation, fanned the flames of revolt and ushered in a virtual dictatorship in 1972. In 1986, People Power put an end to dictatorship. But people power did not solve the problem of poverty and injustice.

The times clearly clamored for another look at the *Ratio Studiorum.* Rejection of the system would not be the answer; but radical adaptation was called for.

A defining moment for all Jesuit schools was an address of Father General Pedro Arrupe to Jesuit alumni gathered in Valencia, Spain, in 1973. Arrupe shocked his hearers with a bombshell: "Have we Jesuits educated you for justice? You and I know what many Jesuit teachers will answer to that question. They will answer, in all sincerity and humility: No, we have not. If the term 'justice' and 'education for justice' carry all the depth of meaning which the Church gives them today, we have not educated you for justice."

The Valencia address went around the Jesuit educational world under the title "Men for Others." It evolved into the inclusive title "Men and Women for Others." Since then, "Men and Women for Others" has become a guiding principle for the Ateneo and all Jesuit education.

The Arrupe era has not yet ended; nor has it been completed. But it has been complicated by the onset of globalization, new scientific discoveries, the end of the Cold War, and the intensifying threat of terrorism.

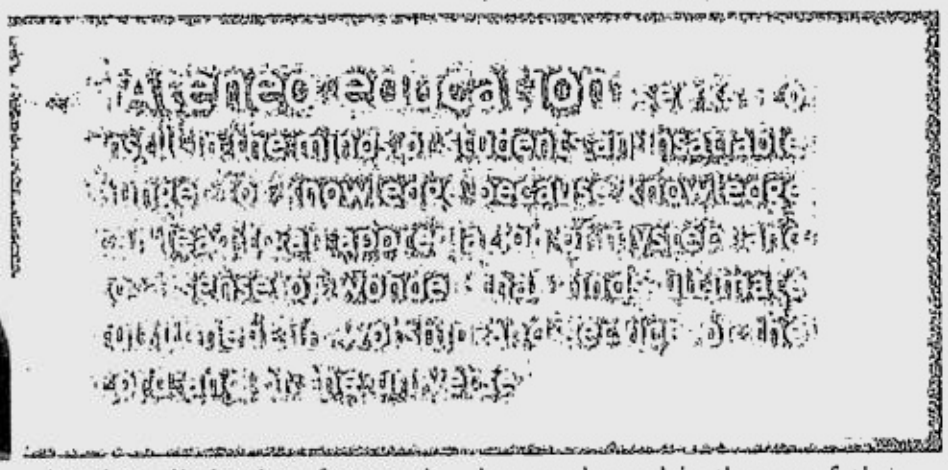
145 years of Ateneo education — from Intramuros, to Padre Faura, and now Loyola Heights, with satellites in de la Costa Street and Rockwell, both in Makati City. Is there a unifying thread that ties the years together?

Yes, there is. The unifying thread and at the same time the vivifying force is Ignatian spirituality.

"Spirituality is about the experience at the core of our being of something — a power, a presence, a drive, a longing — that is beyond the ordinary." It is at the heart of human life. Spirituality, understood in this sense, is something that every person possesses.

When you define spirituality as Ignatian, you refer to the driving force that was at the core of the life of Ignatius of Loyola. Its distinctive features are what make Jesuits and Jesuit institutions behave the way they do. St. Ignatius calls it *nuestro modo de proceder,* our way of proceeding.

One leading distinctive feature is the constant striving for excellence, the idea of doing "more" (*magis*) for the "greater glory of God" (*ad majorem Dei gloriam*). Excellence in academics, excellence in athletics, excellence in service. There may, indeed, be shifts in emphasis, but the drive for "more" is always there. Now, in the Pedro Arrupe Era, the emphasis is on service of the faith that does justice.



Another distinctive feature is centeredness on Christ the way Ignatius centered his life on Christ, a Christ immersed in the hurly-burly of history, often out there where the battlelines are drawn.

There has always been an element of this-worldliness in the various phases of the Ateneo — the Spanish, the American, the contemporary Ateneo — because Christ was this-worldly. He brushed shoulders with the best and the worst of the world.

Ignatian spirituality sees God as active in everything that is – in nature, in people, in structures, and even in most tragic disasters. Hence, Ateneo education seeks to instill in the minds of students an insatiable hunger for knowledge because knowledge can lead to an appreciation of mystery and to a sense of wonder that finds ultimate fulfillment in worship and service of the Lord and of the universe.

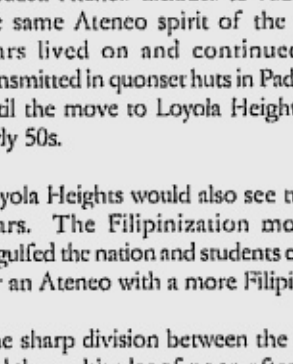
Ignatian education also seeks to be rooted in culture. The Ignatian Christ was born into a culture and grew and lived and immersed himself in a culture.

Ateneo was born in the Manila of 1859, where there was nothing like the uniquely Chinese culture into which Ricci brought Christ or the uniquely Indian culture in which de Nobili preached. The Ateneo was born into an enclave that was Catholic European. Ignatian spirituality, however, is dynamic. It can undergo change. Thus, Ateneo changed in the era of the American Jesuits, changed further in the "Pedro Arrupe Era", and will continue to change in the 21st century world of globalization, scientific discovery, and intensifying threat of terrorism. For, in the words of Cardinal Newman, "in a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

HISTORY AND THE ATENEO

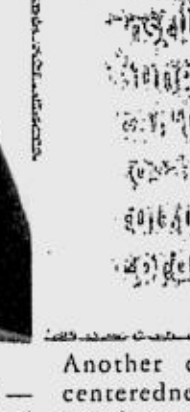
History | Our Story *1859*

1860 1870 1880 1890 1900



1859
The City of Manila entrusts the Spanish Jesuits with the administration of Escuela Municipal de Manila, which is later renamed Ateneo Municipal de Manila.

1877
Jose Rizal graduates with a Bachelor of Arts from the Ateneo.



1889
The San Ignacio Church is completed and consecrated.

1896
Outbreak of Philippine Revolution against Spain. On December 30, Jose Rizal is executed at Bagumbayan.

1898
War between US and Spain. On June 12, the Philippines declares independence from Spain.

145 years of Ateneo

As it was in the Spanish Ateneo and the American Ateneo, so it is in today's Ateneo: the fundamental values of excellence and service remain at the core of the Ateneo spirit. As a Jesuit University, the Ateneo pursues the goals of Jesuit education through the harmonious development of moral and intellectual virtues:

Lux in Domino: Light in the Lord. The Ateneo aims to lead its students to see God in all things and to use their talents for the greater glory of God and the greater service of humanity.

Magis: ever striving for the more. The Ateneo seeks to instill in its students a passion for disciplined excellence and a constant desire to be better, to do better.

Cura personalis: care and concern for the whole person. The Ateneo sees each student's totality and nurtures each one holistically.

Men and women for others. The Ateneo strives to imbue its students with love for and service to others.

Keeping a Tradition of Excellence

The award of Level IV Accreditation Status to the Ateneo by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) and the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) is a recognition of the excellence of its departments and programs. Ateneo has nine CHED Centers of Excellence – Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Literature, Philosophy, English, Psychology, Sociology, and two CHED Centers of Development for Excellence – Information Technology Education and Business Management.

The Ateneo Graduate School of Business was ranked first in the 2004 CHED-FAPE evaluation of Graduate Schools of Business. The Ateneo Law School has consistently had the highest passing rate in the Bar exams over the last ten years.

Faculty and Student Awards

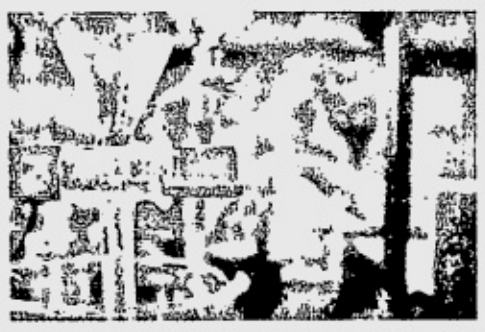
The Ateneo's eight Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardees in the college (more than any other tertiary level institution) and the four Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardees in the Ateneo High School (only one other high school has as many), further highlights this excellence. Ateneo faculty have received many other awards over the years. For instance, since 2000, Ateneo faculty members have won seven 1st Prizes, seven 2nd Prizes, and five 3rd Prizes in the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, fifteen National Book Awards from the Manila Critics Circle, and four Outstanding Young Scientist Awards from the National Academy of Science and Technology.

Every year, Ateneo students consistently earn honors and awards in a wide variety of prestigious national and international competitions. In the year 2004 alone, Ateneo students received the following awards:

- Bar Topnotchers (1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th places)
- Recognition as one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines
- World Champion, JESSUP International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.
  First Prize, First HSBC Young IT Entrepreneur Awards
  First Prize, Short Story in English, Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature
  Champion, Men's Football, 66th UAAP
  Champion, Women's Badminton, 66th UAAP
  Back-to-back Champion (2003-2004), Juniors Basketball, 66th UAAP
- Second Place (next to the University of Tokyo) and Philippine Champion in the Asian Regional Contest of the Association of Computer Machinery International Collegiate Programming Competition (the world's most prestigious computer programming contest for university students)
- Overall Champion, 6th National Debate Championship (the fifth year in a row that the Ateneo Debate Society has won the national title)
  Grand Champion, 11th All-Asian Intervarsity Debating Championship (the fourth time it has won this competition)
  The Ateneo Debate Society has retained its number 4 ranking in the World Debating Championships after Sydney, Oxford, and Monash.

World Class Innovation

Ateneo's world-class faculty and facilities provide students with a rich environment in which to explore, master, and contribute to research, development, and applications in their fields. An example of this can be seen in the area of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Among the many laboratories at the Ateneo that actively engage students in academics and research are the Ateneo Java Wireless Competency Center (AJWCC), the Microelectronics Student Laboratory, and the Ateneo-PLDT Advanced Network Testbed.



At the forefront of SMS, MMS, and Java applications development, the AJWCC distributes content over wireless networks, building community among the wireless device users by helping them communicate in new and innovative ways. The Microelectronics Student Laboratory of the Ateneo is equipped with the state-of-the-art "Synopsis" suite of tools which enables students to design, verify, and analyze integrated circuits as complex as the Pentium 4. These facilities provide our students superior training for the needs of industry.

The Ateneo-PLDT Advanced Network Testbed is a facility for research and development on current market deployment concerns, pre-deployment testing, as well as more advanced topics for graduate research. It helps develop focused training modules with integrated hands-on components on topics that cover leading-edge market and technological fronts such as radio frequency (RF) on-fiber and advanced DSL (digital subscriber line) services.

Ateneo students have garnered numerous prestigious national and international ICT awards, a testament to the world-class quality of their education. These include the 2002 Worldwide Microsoft .NET Best Awards XML Web Services Contest in Redmond, Washington, the 2003 European IT Service Center Wireless Challenge, the 2004 Microsoft Imagine Cup Philippines, and the 2004 Association of Computer Machinery International Collegiate Programming Competition Asian Regional Contest.

Another fine example of how the Ateneo provides its students with innovative learning environments in which to pursue academic and professional excellence is the Ateneo's John Gokongwei School of Management Business Accelerator (SOMBA) Program that enables students to set up actual businesses while still in school under the guidance of experienced entrepreneurs. When they graduated from the Ateneo last March 2004, many of the SOMBA student entrepreneurs did not apply for jobs; instead, they interviewed job applicants for their companies. Indeed, one of the successful student-owned companies emerging from the SOMBA will soon be exporting its products to China.

Transforming Society

In the last few years, the Ateneo has moved to address in an institutional way what Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen has called the "poverty of capability."

The Ateneo Professional Schools in Makati are truly at the "Crossroads of Church and World." They engage key institutions of national life, particularly in the worlds of Law, Business, Health, Technology and Government. Through its Juris Doctor program and the Ateneo Human Rights Center, the Law School develops in its students a legal scholarship that engages key challenges of national life, with a particular concern for the poor and for children's rights. The Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB) is a leader in developing innovative programs for adult working professionals, and is reaching out to other colleges of business through its faculty development programs. It is also a leader in programs for the management of health care, and has developed the

Leaders for Health Program (LHP) together with the Department of Health (DOH) and Pfizer, to improve public health in fifty fourth-and fifth-class municipalities in the country.

The Ateneo School of Government is at the forefront of Ateneo's efforts to contribute to better public governance. Its Masters in Public Management (MPM) and its executive programs address its principal mission of public leadership reform and capability building, with a special focus and concern for local government. As LGUs emerge as key points of integration for addressing development, the School of Government has also become a focal point for Ateneo's efforts to address poverty through basic education, public health, and community and house-building with Gawad Kalinga.

HISTORY AND THE ATENEO

The 20th Century Ateneo

1900

1901
Ateneo Municipal de Manila becomes a private institution and is renamed Ateneo de Manila.

1910

1920

1921
The American Jesuits of Maryland-New York Province replace the Spanish Jesuits.

1930

1932
Fire razes the Intramuros campus; the Ateneo transfers to Padre Faura campus.

1940

1941
The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor bringing WWII to the Pacific Theater. The Ateneo ROTC refuses to disband and joins the Philippine Army in Bataan.

1945
Following American liberation, the Ateneo reopens temporarily in Plaza Guipit, Sampaloc. The following year, the Ateneo returns to Padre Faura.

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o de Manila
service and excellence

ngaging the World

the Ateneo, students are provided h many opportunities for eloping social responsibility that l move them to contribute to ional development and social nsformation within their own ere of competence and expertise.

Ateneo Grade School has had the Ateneo-gyan Program for Understanding and elopment (ANPUD) for the last fourteen years. also work with Cartwheel Foundation for er formation in Bukidnon, and with the parishes anta Maria Della Strada and Our Lady of ecost to help two hundred public schoolchildren e area.

e Ateneo High School, each second year student ds 2 hours a week for 10 weeks in an orphanage, e for the elderly, or center for the physically or ally handicapped under the Christian Service Involvement Program. In junior year, they are the opportunity to participate in Banlaw, a ntary immersion program, where they spend a end with a poor family.

Tulong Dunong, a tutorial program for elementary public school children, was started by Fr. James O'Brien, S.J., thirty years ago. It has been institutionalized in the senior curriculum and has been a defining experience for many generations of Ateneo high school students. While the young kids from public schools learn a lot from the tutoring, their Atenean *kuyas* learn in a much deeper way. The process of reflection that the boys undergo after their action-oriented tutoring helps them to understand what it means to be engaged in the world and to respond to a deeper spiritual call.

The formation program in Ateneo College begins with INTACT (Introduction to Ateneo Culture and Traditions) in the first semester of freshman year. In the second semester of freshman and sophomore years, the students tutor public school students, build houses for Gawad Kalinga and Habitat, care for the environment with Bantay Kalikasan, or take care of the animals at the Manila Zoo.

In the "labor trial" program, junior students work with manual laborers once or twice a week for three weeks, attend input and processing sessions, and write and submit reflections on the experience. In senior year, graduating students undergo a two and a half-day immersion program among the poor.

Student organizations in the Ateneo actively render community service to a wide range of beneficiaries such as the Loyola Mountaineers' work with Dumagats in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, the Ateneo Lex's Balik-Laya Project with prisoners, and the work of the Ateneo SCA, ACIL, Musmos, Kaingin, ACLC and Tugon with many poor communities.

The Ateneo Graduate School of Business has started a program called Mulat-Diwa, bringing to the forefront of the consciousness of students and faculty the challenges of poverty in our country and encouraging participation in programs to address them. The Ateneo Law School is strengthening its Human Rights Center and its Legal Aid program.

Providing Opportunities

Education is key to nation-building, and the Ateneo has taken this to heart by providing educational opportunities to financially needy students and working to improve public education in our country.

Every year, the Ateneo allocates fully fifteen percent of its gross tuition revenue as scholarships for students who are in need of financial assistance to pursue a college degree at the Ateneo. This is in addition to funded scholarships from the Ateneo Scholarship Foundation and individual donors. At the graduate level, teachers and staff of any educational institution pursuing graduate studies at the Ateneo's Loyola Schools receive an automatic fifty percent tuition scholarship.

At the 2004 Metrobank Foundation's Search for Outstanding Teachers, representatives from the Ateneo beamed with pride: Manuel Dy, Jr., Ph.D., professor of philosophy, had won at the Tertiary Level. But another source of pride was the fact that two other awardees, Genersol Monton of Fort Bonifacio High School (Makati City) and Allan Canonigo of New Ormoc City National High School (Ormoc City) were both graduates of Ateneo's teacher education programs.

The Ateneo Center for Educational Development (ACED) is on its seventh year of training elementary and high school teachers from Metro Manila public schools in English, Math, and Science. Faculty members of the Loyola Schools also assist the fledgling Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina to pursue its dreams of becoming a good city university.

The Ateneo has had a long history of serving public school students. The Tulong Dunong Program started in the High School in 1975 is one excellent example. The Pathways for Higher Education program is another. Started in April 2002 with the support of Synergeia and the Ford Foundation, the Pathways program obtains scholarships for financially needy but deserving students and assists in the development of their communities. It has grown beyond the confines of the Ateneo de Manila and now involves partner institutions around the country from as far away as General Santos City in Mindanao.

Whether it is Tulong Dunong, Pathways, or ACED, these experiences help students and faculty to reflect on the values and structures of our society, and on their love for God and fellowmen, and invite them to a personal conversion. It is only then that service and excellence will have purpose and meaning.

nriching Culture

e Ateneo strives to develop students articulate, creative, and productive sons who are rooted in their own ture, interdisciplinary in their proach, and global in their spective.

emphasis on cultural rootedness and global pective cuts across all levels in the educational inuum at the Ateneo. In the Grade School and h School, Araling Panlipunan is the main uctional vehicle for inculcating love of country. taught using creative experiential processes ugh which the young students draw on the richness beauty of Philippine culture and history in the ss of developing the desire to respond to the nges the country confronts.

e college level, through a wide variety of courses o-curricular activities, faculty and students work ther in understanding and enriching Philippine re while engaging in analytical and creative urse on the major ideas and methods of inquiry e global intellectual heritage. The work of Ateneo essor and National Artist Salvador Bernal at halang Ateneo exemplifies this.

National Artist and Ateneo alumnus Salvador Bernal has been designing sets and costumes for the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Tanghalang Ateneo, and other prestigious theater groups. Bernal experiments ingeniously with space and material, making period-pieces look authentic and even lavish while using only ordinary and native materials: bamboo, burlap, rattan, chain links, gauze, cacha; even empty water bottles and ballpen cases become elaborate set pieces. As the citation for the National Artist award duly notes, "he exemplified the versatility of Filipino materials for design and proved that the poverty of a production need not imply a poverty of the imagination."

While a text may be foreign, Bernal masterfully indigenizes it, allowing it to speak more forcefully to a Filipino audience. Shakespeare's Illyria in *Twelfth Night* becomes an indefinite but identifiable Southeast Asian island, and Padua in *Taming of the Shrew* is turn-of-the-century Philippines.

Sociologist Ricardo Abad, the moderator/director of Tanghalang Ateneo, likewise carefully draws connections between the plays and aspects of local culture and contemporary events. The synergy between Abad's culturally-rooted directorial vision and Bernal's designs is what has made Tanghalang Ateneo productions powerful and memorable, continuing the illustrious tradition of dramatics in the Ateneo begun in the early 1920s by Fr. Henry Lee Irwin, S.J., and spans the Grade School's Children's Theater and the High School's Dulaang Sibol.

Becoming God's Light in the World

The Ateneo believes in the total development of its students. It is with this conviction that the Ateneo education has three major components: very strong programs of study in the professional fields providing the best preparation for their chosen careers, a very strong liberal humanistic education through the Core Curriculum, and a holistic and integrated non-academic formation program focusing on leadership, character, spirituality, and service. There is a strong emphasis on *student-centered learning:* the formation of students into resourceful, creative, and motivated lifelong learners who are reflective, analytical, and strategic in their thinking.

This well-rounded education aimed at the total formation of students is the reason why student life at the Ateneo is a very enriching and fulfilling experience. All students partake of this, even the athletes who have to practice daily to compete in

very demanding sports. Thus, a good number of Ateneo athletes are also Deans Listers, academic achievers and student leaders.

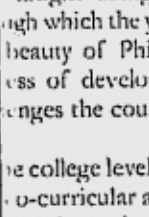
The Jesuit tradition of educating the whole person is the major theme that runs through the academic and non-academic programs and formation activities of the Ateneo, then as now. The total development of students in professional excellence, leadership, character, spirituality and service is at the heart of an Ateneo education. It is what shines brightest and what means the most.

The Ateneo endures because its children never forget. For life at the Ateneo is a journey of discovery: of one's self, of others in the world, of God. Ultimately, it is a journey into God's light, and a discovery of how this light can be shared uniquely with the world. What one gains in his or her unique journey at the Ateneo becomes an integral part of one's person forever. The journey ends in a realization that the mission to be *Lux in Domino*, God's light in the world, to keep the light burning brightly through generations, is the Ateneo way.

1950 — 1960

1958
is given to the new Philippine vince of the Society of Jesus.

1959
neo obtains university status, with Francisco Araneta, S.J. as Rector.



1952
The College and High School Departments transfer to Loyola Heights, Quezon City. In 1954, the Grade School follows.

1970

1972
Proclamation 1081 places the country under martial law.

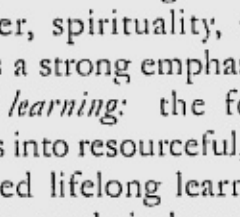
1973
The School of Arts and Sciences becomes co-educational.

1964
Father General appoints Ateneo alumnus Horacio de la Costa, S.J. Provincial of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus.

1977
Ateneo Professional Schools relocate to Salcedo Village, Makati.

1980 — 1990

1986
People Power topples the Marcos dictatorship.

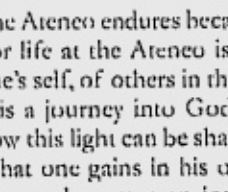


1998
Ateneo Professional Schools relocate to Rockwell Center in Makati.

2000 — 2010 The 21st Century Ateneo

2000
The Ateneo School of Arts and Sciences restructures into the four Loyola Schools.

2004
The Ateneo is *145*.



2002
The Church of the Gesù is completed and dedicated.

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Ateneo de Manila beyond 145

by Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J.

Ateneo in Ever Greater Service to the Nation

In the tradition of Ignatius' Contemplation on the Incarnation, our vision of the Ateneo of the future begins with looking at the Philippines and the world of our time. We see signs of a threatened future, of a nation at risk of breakdown. We also see signs of hope: a growing number of individuals and organizations reaching out and creating hope. Our vision then is for the Ateneo of the future to commit itself firmly on the side of hope, to be an Ateneo focused on our mission of greater service to the nation, forming strong leaders committed to the public good and creating institutions that build communities and the nation.

The Sacred Heart Statue on the hill of the Church of the Gesù serves as a constant reminder of the Call to the Magis

Leaders for the Future

The Ateneo has always seen itself as a school for leaders. In the face of a more competitive world and the growing needs of our country, the need for more and better leaders has become even more pressing.

There is already a more intense focus on leadership formation in the University.

Our Office for Mission and Identity and Organizational Development (OMIOD) is now focused on programs to prepare future leaders, Jesuit and lay, for the Ateneo de Manila and other Jesuit institutions.

With the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Center for Leadership and with the help of Gonzaga University's program in Leadership Studies we will do research on effective leadership in the Philippine setting and create programs for academic training and personal formation for future leaders.

Center for Student Leadership

Next year a new four-storey Center for Student Leadership will rise in the Loyola Schools. It will house most of the student organizations and bring together the offices of the formation programs in leadership skills, personal growth, spirituality, and social concern and involvement. It will be an icon of Ateneo's commitment to preparing leaders for the future.

Measuring ourselves against the best

In a world of greater international competition and a nation in ever greater need, this service demands new and higher levels of excellence. We have embarked on benchmarking with the best grade schools and high schools in Singapore. We have learned from them that their achievement is based on a commitment to solid fundamentals, to strong partnership between school and home, and to school structures that protect learning and formation time.

Ateneo teams have competed against the best in the world in international debate, in the Jessup moot court competition, in computer programming, and in choral contests. They have shown that with training and hard work we can run with the best.

We will continue to measure ourselves against the best and prepare our students to serve with excellence in an internationally competitive world.

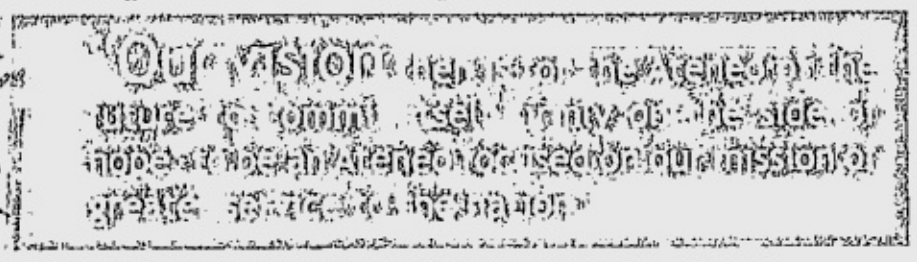
Building institutions for national development

Through the 1970s and 1980s we spoke much of changing unjust structures. We realize today that building a better future demands as well that we build good institutions, graced structures. Among the institutions for building a better future, Ateneo has been focusing on those that build capability for the many. Among these institutions and programs are:

- Research focused on areas critical for national development
- Governance through the Ateneo School of Government
- Health through the Leaders for Health Program and the future Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health
- Basic education through the Ateneo Center for Educational Development, Pathways to Higher Education, Tulong Dunong, and teacher-training programs of the Loyola Schools
- Building homes and communities with Gawad Kalinga

Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health

The most important new school initiative is the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health to begin in school year 2007. This is in partnership with The Medical City at its new home and in the same compound through a generous donation from Meralco. It will be a School of Medicine, committed to preparing the clinician of the future by bringing together the strong academic traditions of Ateneo College and the expertise of the outstanding clinicians of The Medical City. It will also be a School of Public Health, committed to making a difference in the health needs of the majority of Filipinos. To address the pressing needs of society, the clinician will need to be a manager and a leader. The School will thus provide a dual degree of Doctor of Medicine/ Master of Management. An ambitious goal, but Ateneo believes that health for the many is central to our dream of a better future for our country.



Fine Arts

Among the newest programs in the Loyola Schools are those in Fine Arts, anchored on our humanist tradition and beginning in 1999 with the programs in creative writing and theater, traditional strengths of the Ateneo. Approved in principle in 2000, the programs in Art Management and Information Design were officially launched in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Art Management takes advantage of the Ateneo Art Gallery's substantial study collection of modern Philippine art and its tie-up with the recently renovated Ayala Museum and the Lopez museum. Information Design brings together communication theory, information management, IT and art direction and design. The Fine Arts Program is aggressively pursuing the upgrading and improvement of its facilities and studio.

Study Abroad

The Loyola Schools has embarked on innovative programs for a term of study abroad for our students. One of the first groups went to Budapest, Hungary on a program run by a French School of Management. They studied with colleagues from France and other countries in Europe and Asia. They travelled extensively to Italy, France, and Germany. For them, internationalization and multi-cultural learning are no longer just a notion, but a lived experience. We now have arrangements for our students to spend a term in universities in Europe, U.S., Japan, China, and Hong Kong.

International Partnerships and Online Learning

Internationalization and the pursuit of excellence also invite us to international partnership. The Ateneo Graduate School of Business has been partnering with Regis University in Denver in innovative management programs for working professionals. Ateneo will also be partnering with Regis in online courses beginning with Management and IT. The Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo now offers an online Masters in Journalism.

The Ateneo of the future will engage in more international partnerships and online learning. We are privileged to be part of a network of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the U.S. and over a hundred Jesuit institutions of higher learning worldwide.

Love of country

Our teachers who have been going on benchmarking visits to Singapore were struck to find that in practically every class they attended, the teacher would ask the students to "Think Singapore". How can what they are teaching and learning make a difference for their country? Faculty and students who went to a China program in Beijing last spring were also much moved by the deep love of country of all whom they met. They have returned with a stronger commitment to do more, to teach and develop love of country.

The Ateneo is committed to a stronger "Think Philippines" program focused on knowing our country better and growing in a deeper love for her. In the new Araling Panlipunan series in the Grade School and High School we are committed to the teaching of Philippine geography, history, and culture that will inculcate deeper love of country.

Vision and Mission

Our vision and mission is to build leaders and institutions for the future

- able to excel and compete in an internationalizing world
- committed to use this excellence and competitiveness to help build a better future for our people
- coming from spirituality and a deep love of God and our people.

The Ateneo Community in service of one another and the nation

What the Ateneo de Manila is today after 145 years is the achievement of the Ateneo community through the years: Jesuits, parents, alumni and alumnae, faculty, staff, administrators, students, and friends.

Through the crises of the Philippine revolution of 1896, the fire of 1932, World War II, Edsa Uno and Edsa Dos, through the ups and downs of the Philippine economy, we always came together for one another and for the nation.

We begin our countdown today for our sesquicentennial, our 150th anniversary, in 2009.

The same spirit and sense of community will ensure an Ateneo in greater service of one another and the nation in 2009.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

GRADE SCHOOL
Primary School (Prep to Grade 3)
Middle School (Grade 4 to 7)

HIGH SCHOOL
1st Year to 4th Year

LOYOLA SCHOOLS

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
Doctoral Programs in
Philosophy
Theology

Master's Programs in
English Language & Literature Teaching**
Literary & Cultural Studies
Literature (Filipino)**
Literature (Filipino), major in
Creative Writing
Teaching Literature
Philosophy*
Teaching Philosophy***
Pastoral Studies
Pastoral Ministry***
Religious Education***
Theological Studies

Undergraduate Programs in
Art Management (BFA AM)
Creative Writing (BFA CW)
Humanities (AB HUM)
Information Design (BFA ID)
Interdisciplinary Studies (AB IS)
Literature-English (AB LITENG)
Literature-Filipino (AB LITFIL)
Philosophy (AB PH)
Philosophy: Pre-Divinity Track (AB PH-PREDIV)
Theatre Arts (BFA TA)

JOHN GOKONGWEI SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
Undergraduate Programs in
Communications Technology Management (BS COMTECH)
Legal Management (BS LM)
Management (BS MGT)
Management-Honors* (BS MGT-H)
Management Engineering* (BS ME)
Management of Applied Chemistry (BS MAC)

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
Doctoral Programs in
Chemistry
Computer Science
Mathematics
Physics

Master's Programs in
Biology**
Biology Education***
Chemistry**
Chemistry Education**
Computer Science
Information Technology***
Environmental Management***
Mathematics**
Mathematics Education**
Physics**
Physics Education***
Science Education, major in
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
General Sciences

Undergraduate Programs in
Biology* (BS BIO)
Chemistry* (BS CH)
Chemistry with Applied Computer Systems* (BS CH-ACS)
Chemistry/Materials Science and Engineering (BS CH-MSE)
Computer Engineering (BS COE)
Computer Science* (BS CS)
Electronics & Communications Engineering (BS ECE)
Environmental Science (BS ES)
Management Information Systems (BS MIS)
Mathematics* (BS MA)
Applied Math: Computational Science* (BS AMC)
BS/MS Applied Math: Mathematical Finance* (BSM AMF)
Physics* (BS PS)
Applied Physics with Applied Computer Systems* (BS PS-ACS)
Physics/Materials Science and Engineering (BS PS-MSE)
Health Sciences* (BS HSC)

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Doctoral Programs in
Economics
Psychology, major in
Clinical Psychology
Social-Organizational Psychology
Sociology

Master's Programs in
Anthropology
Applied Sociology & Anthropology**
Communication**
Journalism***
Economics**
Education, major in
Basic Education Teaching**
Educational Administration
Guidance and Counseling
Information Technology Integration***
Reading Education
History**
Japanese Studies
Political Science, major in Global Politics*
Psychology, concentration in
Applied Social Psychology**
Counseling Psychology**
Developmental Psychology**
Industrial-Organizational Psychology**
Psychology***
Social Development
Sociology

Undergraduate Programs in
Communication (AB COM)
Development Studies (AB DS)
Economics (AB EC)
Economics-Honors* (AB EC-H)
European Studies (AB EU)
History (AB HI)
Management Economics (AB MEC)
Political Science (AB POS)
Psychology (AB PSY)
Social Sciences (AB SOS)
Psychology* (BS PSY)

ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (AGSB)
Masters in Business Administration
Standard Program
Middle Managers
Regis Program
Health Care Management

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (AITI)
Master's Programs in
Information Technology
Information Management

Diploma in Information Technology

SCHOOL OF LAW (LAW)
Juris Doctor (J.D.) Program

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Masters in Pubic Management

* *Honors Program*
** *Thesis & Non-thesis Options*
*** *Non-thesis*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

L1

Rocks at 19

Words set to music of a day in the life of the Inquirer

I HEARD the news today, oh boy!" —The Beatles, "A Day in the Life"

For anyone who feels the beat and gets the rhythm, every day at the Philippine Daily Inquirer could be a jam session.

All right, "jam session" is dated. But although the company president's perception of the PDI newsdesk's composition as being of Woodstock vintage is fairly accurate, the editorial routine recalls rock 'n' roll before and beyond that celebrated hippie "happening."

This is why Elvis, demigod of the '50s, is our 19th anniversary mascot. And this is why we're telling this little story in words borrowed from some of the greatest rock songs of all time.

The INQUIRER Rocks at 19. "Smoke on the water, fire in the sky" made this possible instead of inhibiting it.

Stories are invariably driven by "More Than a Feeling."

"Bad Moon Rising"? "Highway to Hell"? "Another Brick in the Wall"? A "Revolution"? No obstacle is ever big enough for these journalists "Born to Run"—all right, sometimes "Born to be Wild."

A "Purple Haze" scenario seems strangely insignificant. They will never "Let It Be," "Jude," they "Won't Get Fooled." "Paranoia" is a virtue.

Oh, but accuracy is their mantra. Check, recheck, check once more, "'cause you know sometimes words have two meanings," even those uttered while climbing the "Stairway to Heaven."

Still, if the editors never "get no satisfaction," it's because the operative word in the newsroom is supposed to be "passion." Their constant demand: "Light My Fire." That's right, even if reporters have to "Shake, Rattle & Roll" or "lose their religion."

Yes, we can sound like Guns N' Roses hissing, "Welcome to the Jungle," and yet U2's "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" is not always acceptable as a theme. Instead, we dare insist on Positive Sundays, because the INQUIRER was listening, too, when Paul McCartney pleaded, "Well you know that it's a fool who plays it cool by making the world a little colder."

Translation: You may say we are dreamers, but we're not the only ones. Why, even Megadeth tried to make people realize that "Peace Sells." Though it does take a "Whole Lotta Love."

Some people may roll their eyes: "Excuse me while I kiss the sky."

They may see the INQUIRER as a "Crazy Train," a stable of "Wild Horses."

What it really is, is a "Free Bird," a "Bohemian Rhapsody."

And it's never "Dazed and Confused." It's never "Yesterday."

Most of all, it's "a lovely place ... such a lovely place."

—Emmie Velarde,
Assistant Entertainment Editor

As we celebrate our 19th anniversary, the operative word in the newsroom is still passion, its daily demand, 'Light my fire,' as editors and reporters 'Shake, Rattle & Roll'

BY EDWIN BACASMAS: From the heights of power at the Palace, PDI ace photographer Bacasmas (in photo) focuses his lens on the Super generation.

Super! view of the new and now

By Tim Yap
Editor and creative director, Inquirer Super!

FOR PREVIOUS generations, rock and roll proved to be the best escape from a mundane existence born out of a desire to break away from the system and go against the mold of the ho-hum.

Something that the INQUIRER is very much used to, the fear of going with what used to be tagged as "anti-establishment" added to the thrill of the movement, adding to the popularity of rock scene legends Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley, the Beatles and the like. There was something goosebump-inducing in having delight in something that was deemed illicit.

"Rock and roll is here to stay"—the old ditty chose to repeat itself, maybe thinking that if it repeated itself enough (19 times, I guess?), that it would be a self fulfilling prophecy for the musical genre that our grandparents grooved to.

Fast forward to now, and we see the tide shift toward the direction of "the other side," with this era forever in celebration of "what-is-old-is-new-again." Not that it ever left. Every generation takes pride in its ability to let their hair down, and "rock and roll."

Rock and roll really is here to stay, it just takes different forms. From the disco culture of the '80s to the rave scene of the '90s to the R&B/ hip hop royalties of now, young people will forever have the desire to get down and dirty.

For what better time to do it but now? Knowing fully well that we are given much freedom, we practice as much responsibility with our actions as much as we know how to. The difference is, what was considered underground and taboo before is what is mainstream now.

The Super generation is given free rein to explore its potentials and experience everything that comes with it. Technology makes everything fast—everything that this generation needs it can get within the wave of its hand—or finger, for that matter.

Style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment and recreation all play big parts in the ever evolving movement of this Super generation, who choose to not just live it—but live it in super-sized proportions.

To balance a full-time career with an active social life. To focus on a profession at the same time indulge in one's passions. This time, it's not about "either, or," but about "both, and more."

Having the best of both worlds—that's the Super generation's ideal. Another term tagged to people like us is the "slasher" generation. One is never just tied to a single thing. A graphic designer slash entrepreneur slash teacher slash civic volunteer. A call center employee slash accessories designer slash student slash fictionist. And so on. The slashes are endless.

So, how do we rock and roll? By doing all of the above, and more. We can still gyrate to our favorite house or R&B / hip hop tunes. We will still listen to our Paul van Dyk and Hed Kandy tunes on our iPods, download our favorite logos and ringtones on our cell phone, and still know how it is to hand-write a love letter, or compose a poem for a loved one.

We will still run to a rave at the NBC Tent, even if we totally got sloshed midweek dancing to R&B at Greenbelt. We will still flock to a Bamboo or Rivermaya gig and watch the latest episode of a star searching reality show or catch "The Buzz." The clubs, TV shows, performance venues—pop culture in general—have housed the way we rock and the way we roll.

Another mecca that has housed this Super generation is the gym. With the body being the temple of this generation's soul, self improvement has become part and parcel to daily living. Gym is the new church, as exercise has become the new ecstasy.

Here at the INQUIRER, rocking at 19 has never been more Super! Each day, we try our best to live our lives like it was our last chance to rock and roll. We aim to bring to our readers our view of pop—the new and the now, and how it can enrich their lives.

As the new baby of this 19-year-old institution, we have been called "the spoiled brats" of this publication—part of the birth pangs of a paper dedicated to "balanced news, fearless views." We have become the breakthrough baby (at 1-1/2 years young) crying out loud for change.

Redefining the rules (from deadlines to newspaper styles) and going out of the box (more like, making boxes explode) has become part of our weekly battle plan as we wade through the urban jungle of newspaper publishing.

So far, the results have been fulfilling. From a measly two-section Super!, we are now averaging eight per week, and the pool of writers, artists, photographers and contributors and most importantly, readers, continues to grow.

And this is just the beginning.

Our aim for Super! is to continue to rock and roll for the next 19 years, and beyond.

For our first anniversary, we started our "I am Super!" awards, paying tribute to true blue rockers—the movers and shakers of this era—19 individuals whose contribution to pop culture is undeniable.

We hope to continue with this tradition as we grow younger and wiser with the INQUIRER each year.

Reader empowerment has always been at the forefront of our goals, so we put regular features in Super! such as Superfriends (where readers can interact with other Super! folk such as themselves) and "Caption, my caption" (where it is the readers themselves who supply the captions to photos chosen by the Super! staff).

As the youngest child of the INQUIRER family, we at Super! congratulate everyone who has been rocking before us, and those who are rocking with us now. We are happy to be rocking with all of you—editors, writers and readers—and hope you'll continue to rock with us for 19 more years, and beyond.

FAST FACTS

By PDI Research

1 Rank of the INQUIRER among nationally circulated broadsheets in terms of readership. [1]

9 Number of years (1994-2002), the INQUIRER has topped the annual Asia Research Organization's tri-media readership survey. [2]

26 Percentage of surveyed Metro Manila readers whose best newspaper is PDI who said that they read the INQUIRER because it is unbiased, objective, balanced news report or "walang kinikilingan o pinapanigan." The next top two reasons cited for reading the INQUIRER are: it is "kumpleto sa balita (complete news)" (17percent) and fighter or fearless, "walang takot na batikusin ang sinuman (without fear of anyone)" (9 percent)

54-56 Percentage of mallers surveyed who said that they read the INQUIRER; also of bookworms, of music lovers, of credit card holders, of video watchers, and of TV viewers surveyed who said the same thing.

59 Percentage of cell phone owners surveyed who said that their top choice among the broadsheets is the INQUIRER; also the percentage of golfers surveyed who said the same thing

61 Percentage of members of Class ABC surveyed who said that they read the INQUIRER, when asked what newspaper did they read today or yesterday.

62 Percentage of Philippine Internet users surveyed who said they access INQ7.net regularly for news.

63 Percentage of car owners surveyed who said they read the INQUIRER.

70 Percentage of household heads surveyed who said they prefer to read the INQUIRER.

73 Percentage of travelers surveyed who said the INQUIRER is their top choice; also the percentage of business owners or proprietors who said the same thing.

74 Percentage of sports enthusiasts surveyed who said they prefer to read the INQUIRER.

79 Percentage of managers and professionals who said in a survey that they read the INQUIRER.

94 Percentage of broadsheet readers who have completed their degrees or have taken graduate school courses who said in a survey that they read the INQUIRER.

210 Total number of awards received by the INQUIRER and staff as of Nov. 22, 2004.

4,500 Number of trees estimated to have been saved by the Inquirer New Paper Drive. Now on its fourth year, the program has recycled more than 230,000 kilos of old newspapers, with the help of over 400 institutions. Early this year, the program earned for the INQUIRER two awards: the Gold Quill and the Anvil awards.

702,000 Estimated number of readers on weekdays of Inquirer Libre, the INQUIRER's free newspaper for riders of the MRT and LRT.

1,000,000 Average number of unique visitors per month of Inquirer.net, four times the average number of unique visitors in 2000.

2,706,000 Average number of Filipinos who read the INQUIRER.

35,000,000 Average number of page views per month of INQ7.net.

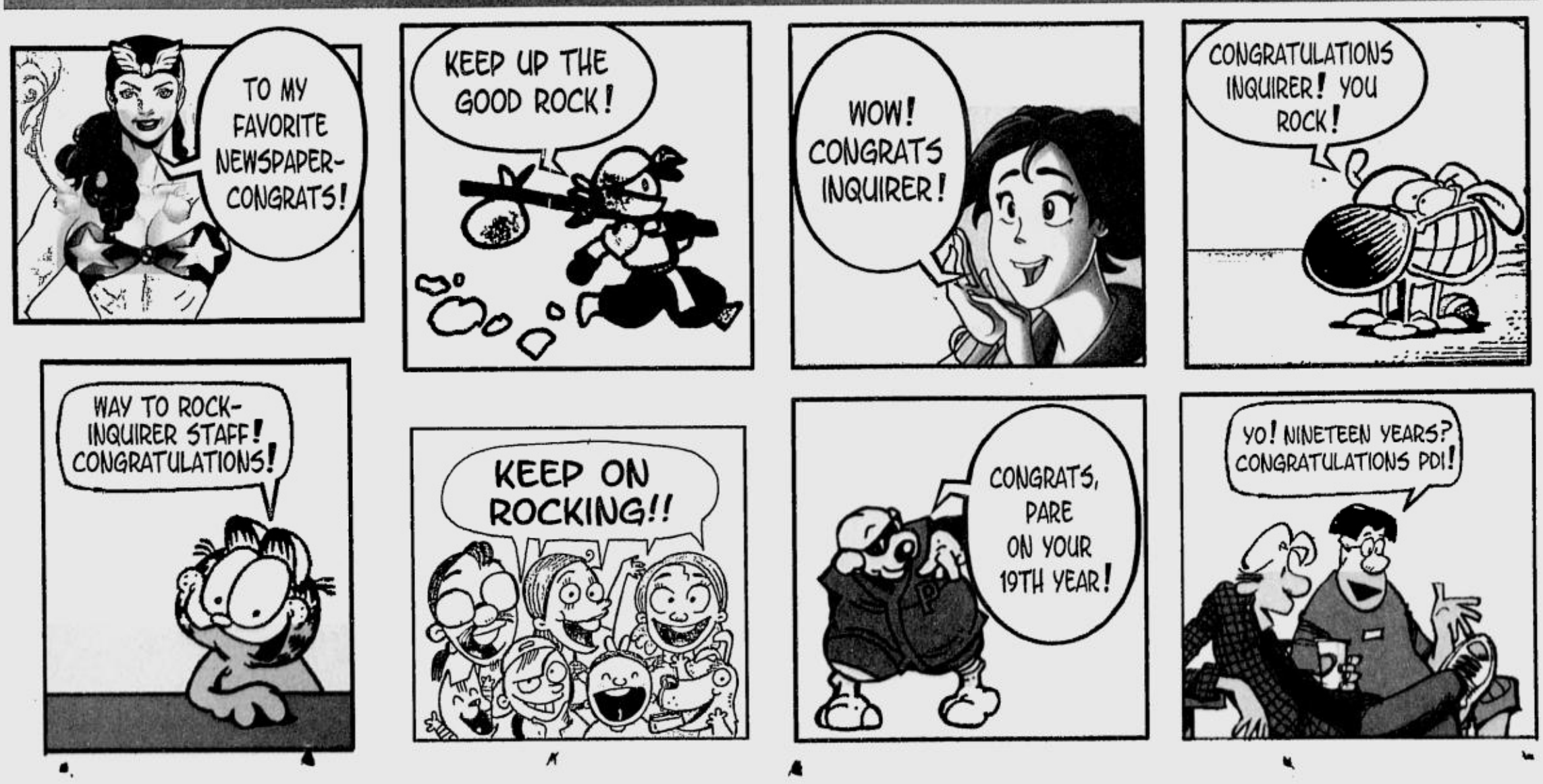
SOURCES: NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH;PDI ARCHIVES

[1] Nielsen Media Research- Media Index 2003

[2] Research Organization Inc. Tri-media Exposure Study, 1994 to 2000 (newspaper readership); ARO did not conduct a readership survey in 2003 and 2004

Hi! from the in-house Sunday comics people

By Steph Bravo



To find jewels in the dust

By Rosario A. Garcellano
Associate Editor for Readership

CONNECTION with readers has been a constant activity of the INQUIRER in all its years of existence. Now, a year shy of two decades, it continues to make the effort of connecting, to ever strengthen the ties that bind us to the great mass out there who invests enormous meaning on our enterprise of publishing and advocacy.

A paradox characterizes modern times. In this cutting-edge age when communication is faster than what could once be imagined, when the sights and sounds of war and other human tragedies reach breakfast tables even before the smoke and tears can dissipate, the preponderance of information, the sheer surfeit of it, is often among the casualties.

Rare commodities

Time and attention are now rare commodities in the business of living, and the information provided by the media, once the way to start one's day, now often acquires the dimensions of a one-way street. This is the way it often goes in this country of our affections and despair, where, for the attention of certain readers, a newspaper has to compete with the rocketing cost of keeping body and soul together. (Or, at the other end of the spectrum where young people celebrate themselves in the manner of Rimbaud though without the elegant susurrus of his verse, to connect in terms of their language and song.)

The INQUIRER is aware of its responsibility as a stalwart of Philippine journalism and strives to maintain its footing in the marketplace of ideas. It recognizes and has duly adapted to the changing needs and demands of its readers at the same time that it reiterates its commitment to inform, educate and serve as catalyst to social development. (Or, on the side, as the young would expect of a newspaper in tune with Beyonce, to party. Even our dourest journalists might agree that conflict between running political news and running breathless tidbits on the spas and ski slopes of entertainment is not necessarily so.)

Fast-fact boxes

To aid readers on the run, its reports on power rate increases, pork barrel and crime as well as momentous occurrences such as catastrophes or landmark court rulings are complemented by charts, tables, sidebars and fast-fact boxes. Marked "In the Know" or "What Went Before," required to be short and sweet, these boxes are designed for quick absorption. They are aimed at providing readers background and context and, along with the main reports, at assisting them in comprehending an event and apprehending its impact on their daily lives. (Memory comes short. The INQUIRER is committed to galvanize it.)

On Sundays, the INQUIRER makes a deliberate effort to relax, to momentarily set aside the grit of life as we have come to know it and to focus on its (few) pleasures like a lover with a slow hand. It's a challenging task, sometimes close to impossible to meet given the lay of this land where children die of hunger as their grief-maddened mothers watch. But we strive to deliver, whether in words or in pictures.

Different from the families

We find jewels in the dust and we produce stories of "common" folk—women, men and children of uncommon valor—stories told in a style different from the daily run, different but familiar and dear. (Does this mask the existing reality? We think not. We mean to relay, even if in spurts and starts, messages of pride and hope.)

To help readers come to grips with the recent storms and typhoons that wrought death and destruction in Luzon, the INQUIRER news bureaus sought, and continue to seek, to put a human face on the unrelenting details—the wide swath of misery, the horrific jumble of wood and human lives wrought by the deadly rush of earth and water triggered by human greed. We mean to desensitize the jaded; to present in words and pictures what great numbers of people have come to and how they got there; to back cold figures with warm (or once-warm) bodies and the bits and pieces of their broken lives; to show how volunteers have performed even beyond their own expectations. And, from there, help readers pinpoint responsibility.

Connection. Daily. It's a continuing effort, a commitment, of the INQUIRER.

READ ON THE RUN: Reaching breakfast tables even before the smoke and tears can dissipate.

STALWART OF PHILIPPINE JOURNALISM: Recognizing and adapting to the needs and demands of our readers.

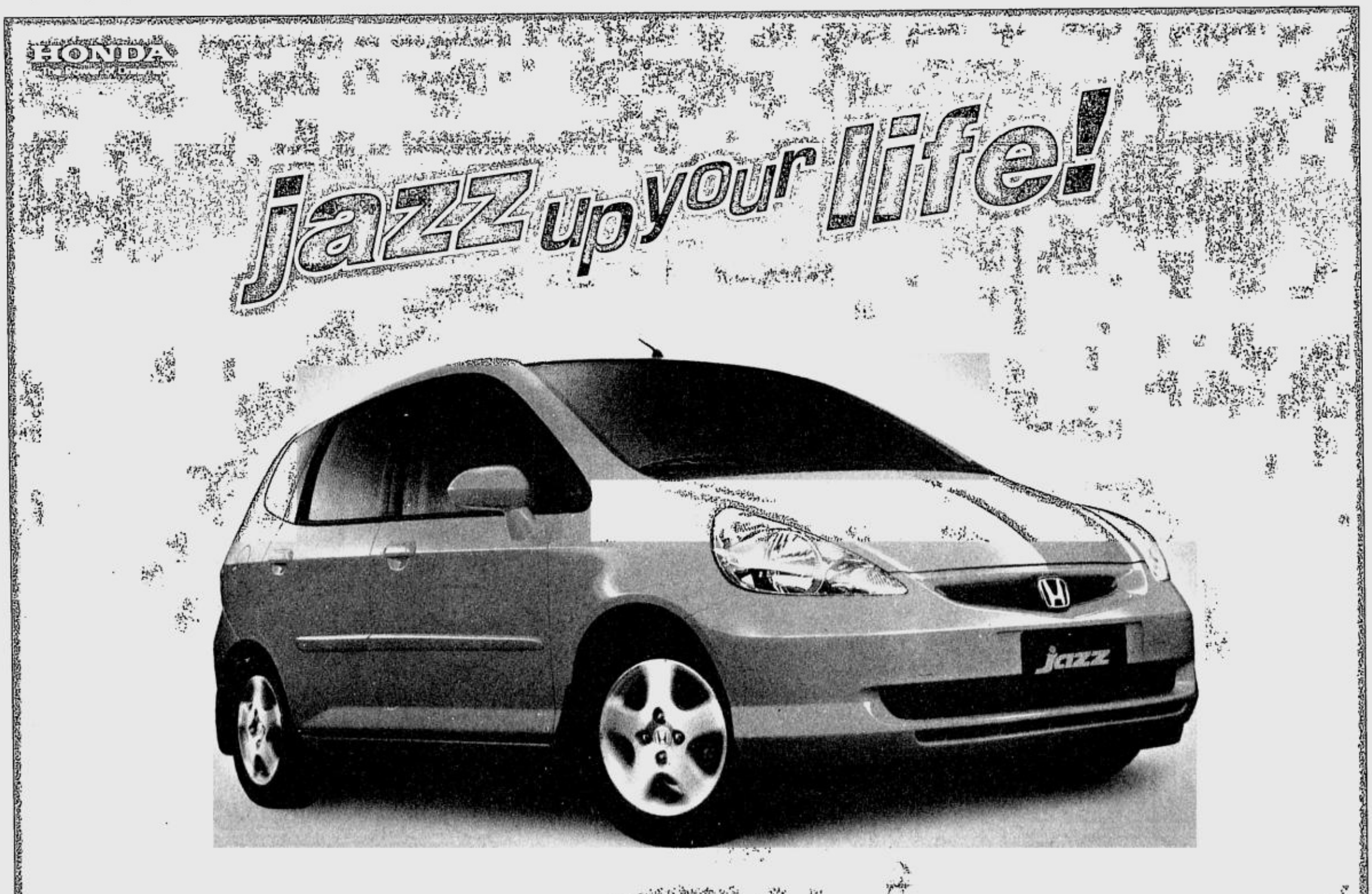
Quick quiz

So you think you know a lot about the INQUIRER. Take this quiz and find out.

1. Which PDI section has condoms hanging from its ceiling?
2. Who are the members of the PDI board?
3. Who is the oldest and who is the youngest PDI employee?
4. What was the first street price of the INQUIRER?
5. What was the total number of pages in the INQUIRER's first issue?
6. How many employees did the INQUIRER have when it started?
7. Where are Print Town's plant sites located?
8. What Philippine editions of global publications does Print Town produce?
9. On what occasion did INQ7 reach its all-time high number of page views?
10. Where can you buy INQUIRER souvenirs?

Answers:

1. Sunday Inquirer Magazine
2. Marixi Prieto, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Carlos Rufino, Macario Rufino, Pat Garcia, Karla Delgado, Dennis Valdes, Gil Pangilinan, Paolo Prieto
3. Publisher Isagani Yambot and editorial production assistant Jamie Alarcon, respectively.
4. P2
5. 8 pages
6. 40
7. Makati, Laguna, Cebu, Davao
8. Asian Wall Street Journal and International Herald Tribune
9. May 11, 2004, the day after the national and local elections, where the website had 2.1 million page views.
10. At the INSHOP located at the ground floor of the Inquirer building at 1098 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

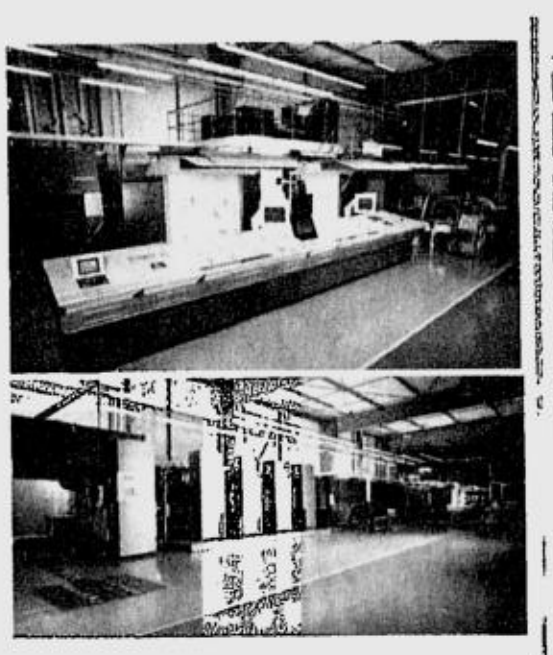


PRINT TOWN

The Best Way to Put Ink on Paper

Through the years we have been part of the team that brings the news to your doorstep. Our newspaper presses, FEP Printing Corp. and Alliance Media Printing Inc, prints the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inquirer Libre, Cebu Daily News, Bandera and Tumbok. Apart from these local titles, we also print the Asian Wall Street Journal and the International Herald Tribune. As we continue to find the best way to put ink on paper, we have expanded and now print books and magazines through our commercial printing arm, Lexmedia Digital Corp.

At Lexmedia, we've invested in the latest equipment and built a production platform that serves the publisher's needs first and foremost. As your business partner, we offer a complete printing solution -- a fully digital prepress, world-class print quality, state-of-the-art bindery and a full range of post-press and delivery services.



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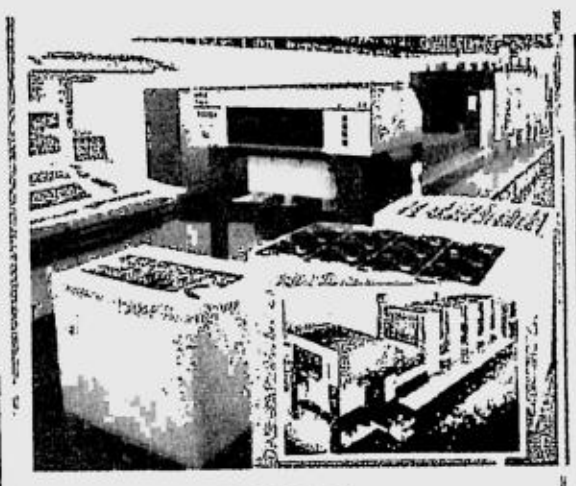

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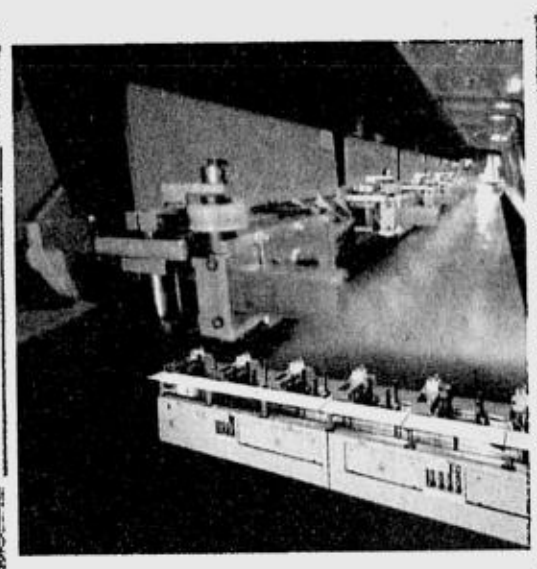

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Wow! 22 stories in 7 media outlets

By Stella O. Gonzales
Editor, Inquirer News Service

IT was the product of several brainstorming sessions by a team of INQUIRER senior editors and management people, including PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

The group was thinking of ways by which the INQUIRER and its media affiliates could reach as many people as possible.

Then came the idea of having a special report that would simultaneously run in the INQUIRER, Inquirer Libre, InqTV, INQ7.net, and Inquirer Publication Inc.'s Cebu Daily News, Bandera and Tumbok.

But choosing the topic for the report was not easy.

The team agreed that the report must be something non-political so as not to turn off the public. It must be a gut issue that most Filipinos could relate to and would want to read about. And it must be something the INQUIRER could produce in a short time.

Several topics were suggested. Some were quite interesting, but could not be produced right away.

Then someone asked: "What about cell phone theft?"

Each member of the team started recounting stories about their own experiences or their family member's or their friend's or relative's or colleague's.

It was then the team knew it had a hit.

Cell phone theft was the country's most common street crime, thieves were killing people over cell phones, and there was no indication that the situation was about to improve.

'Humanize the technology angle'

By JV Rufino
Editor in Chief, INQ7.net

THE CELL phone theft series of stories generated a lot of enthusiasm from INQ7.net editors and reporters as we have long been covering mobile phone news in our breaking news and daily Infotech section on the website. Collaborating with our parent company and sister publications in the INQUIRER group was a chance to share our stories with local readers rather than with our predominantly overseas Filipino audience of close to a million readers.

When we discussed what our contribution to the series would be, we decided that while technology was the natural angle for the online arm of the INQUIRER to take, we would need to "humanize" that angle to connect with non-online readers.

Hence, our main contribution to the series was a profile on Jun Lozada, a former telecommunications executive who is now a dedicated anti-cell phone theft advocate.

We also took readers behind the counters of cell phone repair shops and showed how technicians went around the safeguards cell phone manufacturers had put in place to guard against theft. And our reporter discovered that cell phones can now be pawned just like jewelry and watches—yet another way for thieves to fence stolen phones.

Dividing the work

The team agreed that Libre, InqTV and INQ7 would produce their own set of stories. INQUIRER was to have its own stories, which would also be uploaded in the INQ7 website.

Associate editor for readership Chato Garcellano shepherded the INQUIRER's Metro Manila reporters to work on the stories. She sifted through their sometimes long stories, chopped them into a more readable length, and merged those that were related.

InqTV's John Nery edited the stories submitted by PDI's four provincial bureaus, and these appeared in the Across the Nation page.

Art director Lynett Villariba was in charge of layout and photo consultant Boy Cabrido gave the assignments to PDI's photographers.

Cebu Daily News and Bandera ran the stories produced by the INQUIRER, while Tumbok ran those produced by Libre.

The result was a first in Philippine media history: 22 related stories in seven media outlets.

'Show, not tell'

By John Nery
Executive Producer, InqTV

WHAT makes a story prepared for TV different, in essence, from one written for a newspaper or a website? Last September's "convergence" special report was a terrific opportunity to discover the answer.

The series helped focus the InqTV team's resolve to do stories that only TV can do. In the special report, it became clear that the task facing InqTV was simple: to show, rather than tell. To this end, INQUIRER reporter Luige del Puerto worked closely with InqTV producer Kitkat Wenceslao to verify anecdotal evidence, case actual cell phone theft hot spots, and then shoot on location.

InqTV also decided to dedicate the week's interactive Tanong ng Bayan segment to the issue. We asked: *Nakawan ng cellphone, ano'ng solusyon?*

As expected, the issue generated a rousing response. Not a few blamed the victim. The following message from Catherine of Sultan Kudarat was representative of hundreds: "wlng mgna2kw kng wlng ta2nga tanga." Hundreds also called for stricter execution of tougher laws, including the cutting off of offenders' arms. (Call this the Saudi option.) And then there were the texters, like Eric of Taytay, who waxed sarcastic and political: "get pgma 2 promise nt 2 do nythng abt th prblm. we shud xpct her 2 go back on her word & try 2 solv it b4 her 100th day n ofc!"

'Ur celfone or ur lyf'

By Chito dela Vega
Editor in Chief, Libre

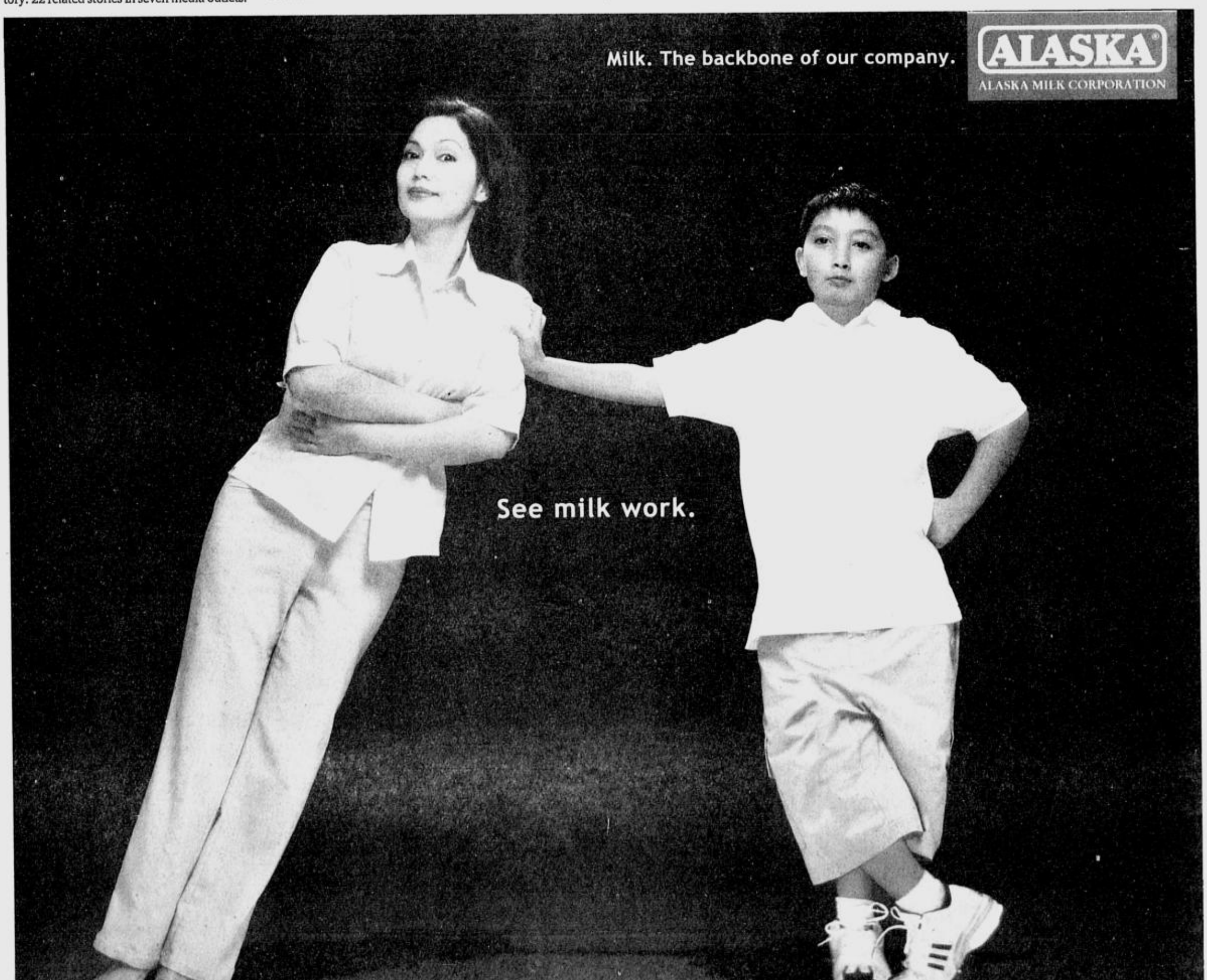
INQUIRER Libre had a special interest in the cell phone convergence story mainly because the topic affected the bulk of its readers— LRT and MRT commuters.

Most Libre readers, who commute daily to work or school, have either had a first-hand experience of cell phone theft or have a relative, friend or acquaintance who have had one.

Using the statement ur celfone or ur lyf? :-(as a springboard, Libre reporter Cathy C. Yamsuan, produced three stories for the convergence series. For Day 1, we came out with the story "Segunda mano? Ingat kayo d'yan," which warned the public that second-hand phones could be stolen goods. Day 2 had the story of a chronic cell phone theft victim, "Ayoko na ng cell phone."

Our concluding story was how the police solved the case of Christian Reyes, nephew of famed hairstylist Ricky Reyes. The younger Reyes was shot and killed when he refused to give up his cell phone ("*Nasáyang na buhay dahil sa nakawan*").

Libre had the exclusive photos of the suspects.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WOMEN WHO ROCK: GMA jams with INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and chair Marixi Prieto during the presidential campaign, March 2004

ROCKIN' WITH LAUGHTER: Getting happy with presidential candidate Raul Roco, February 2004

ROCK OF AGES: Hearing the word from presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva, February 2004

POLICE ROCK: Presenting a copy of Page One to presidential candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, February 2004

ROCKY: Putting them up with boxing champ and INQUIRER's 2003 Man of the Year Manny Pacquiao, January 2004

TOP ROCKS:. GMA spends Thanksgiving with INQUIRER management and editors, November 2004

ROCK OF DEFENSE: Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes makes a point beside publisher Isagani Yambot, May 2003

Newsroom rocks, rolls

HUSHED ROCKS: Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita shares a secret that Secretary Angelo Reyes doesn't know, March 2003

VIPs who came to wine, dine, delight

THEY shook, they rattled and they rolled their way to the INQUIRER office in Makati all throughout the years, some with a big bang and the gang in tow, others unannounced but ready to get down till the break of dawn (or so it seemed sometimes, ho-hum). But while other newspapers have to hunt these VIPs down, it was they who came knockin' on PDI's door—to explain, to plead, to expose, or simply to say thanks and break bread. We had the President, the presidentiables, men in uniform, athletes with medals, even an idol with a flower in her hair. And never mind what we did to their shoes, blue suede and otherwise.

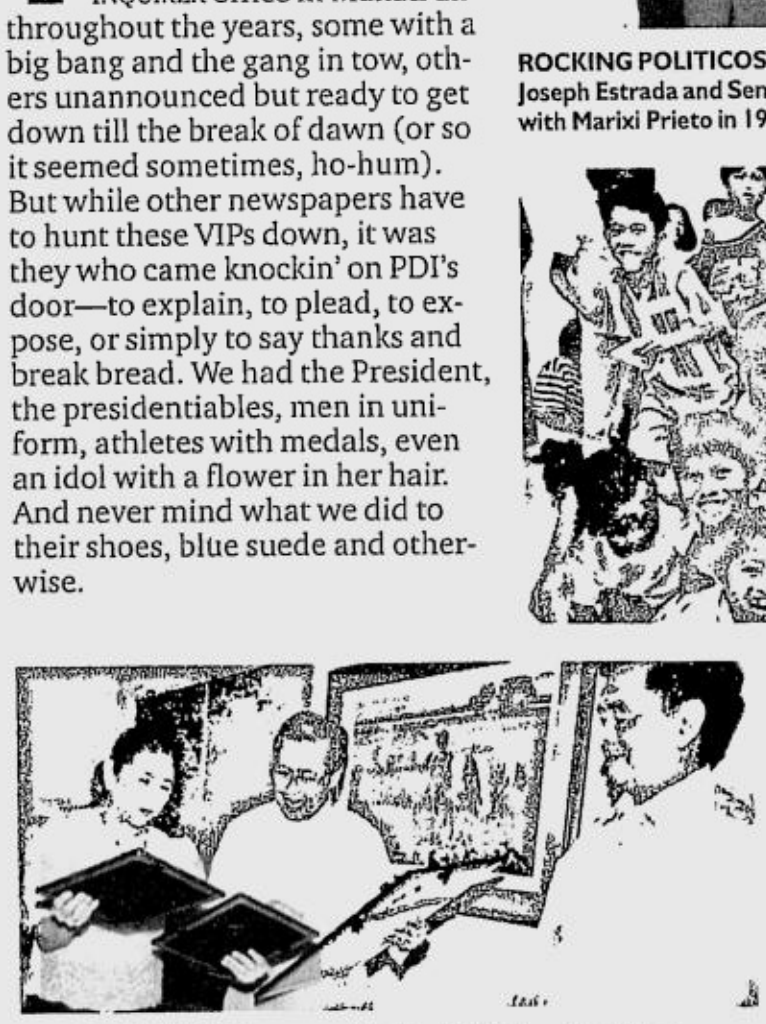
ROCKING POLITICOS: Vice President Joseph Estrada and Sen. Edgardo Angara with Marixi Prieto in 1995

BUSINESS ROCKS: Business maverick Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and INQUIRER managing editor Joey Nolasco in 2000

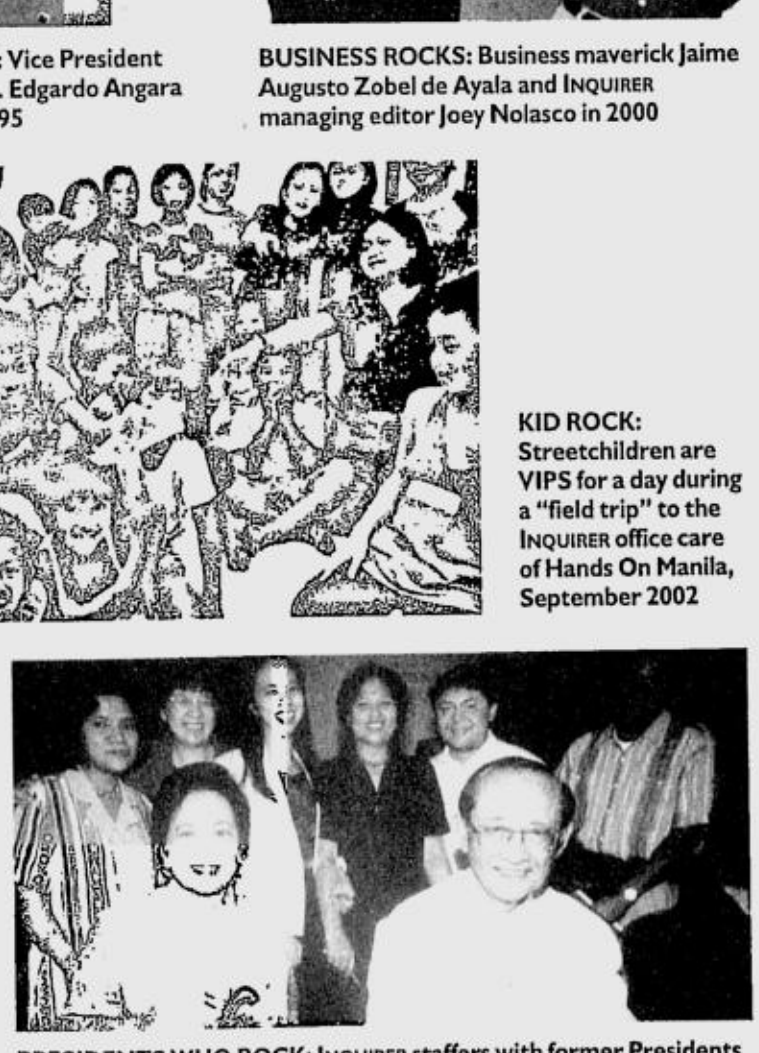
ROCKING RED ALERT: AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia and Maj. Gen. Cicero Castellano explain the red alert status, November 2003

KID ROCK: Streetchildren are VIPS for a day during a "field trip" to the INQUIRER office care of Hands On Manila, September 2002

CALL THAT ROCK: Marixi Prieto with PLDT's Manny Pangilinan, 2001



ROCK OF JUSTICE: INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and publisher Isagani Yambot play host to Chief Justice Hilario Davide, February 2001



PRESIDENTS WHO ROCK: INQUIRER staffers with former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos at the launch of Page One, 1998

ROCK OF RESCUE: Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman leads the Sagip Buhay meeting on emergency humanitarian assistance for typhoon victims at the INQUIRER office, December 2004

ROCK IDOL: Fil-Am "American Idol" finalist Jasmine Trias gets a celebrity welcome, October 2004

The 'dinosaur' who came in from the wires

By Ruben Alabastro
Day Newsdesk Consultant

YOU CAN'T blame people when, on hearing that you have been a reporter for more than 40 years, they shout from across the room and call you a dinosaur.

That was how you felt the day you retired from the foreign news agency where you had worked for years, threw your few possessions into a black plastic bag, and left that office tower on Ayala, closing the door behind you for the last time.

Still, you were consoled by one thought: Life, someone once wrote, is much more successfully looked at from a single window.

Almost suddenly, the feeling that you had seen better times was gone.

This April evening, you walked into the offices of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. You were, as they say, a "veteran" reporter, but you had spent all four decades of your adult life working for international news agencies, and it was the first time you were seeing the innards of a newspaper office.

Every afternoon since then, you have been in the teeth of daily editorial conferences, sitting side by side with editors who seem to know every bit of gossip in town, and who decide which stories and pictures would appear on the front page the next day, and which would be pushed into virtual oblivion in the inside sections.

Journalist's blood

As darkness sets in, a woman in black walks in. You immediately recognize her. Isn't she the irrepressible editor who, years ago, earned the wrath of a dictator?

Maybe the blood of a journalist never runs dry and soon, the woman in black is peering into every story—including headline and picture caption—that had been laid out on the front page for tomorrow's edition, worrying about how it could be improved or better presented.

As a news agency man, you wrote one, two or maybe three stories a day, and then headed to the nearest dive in town. Now, working at the INQUIRER desk, story after story passes through your hands even on a quiet day. You glance at the clock and see that your night is over, so soon.

As a reporter for Agence France-Presse, United Press International, The Associated Press and finally Reuters, you inevitably jumped on the news that a plane or a passenger ship had gone down. A quick check, and you learned that the casualty figures were low—they could be counted on your fingers—and you shoved the story in the back of your mind.

Life in Asia is cheap

Several foreign correspondents had told you that life in Asia was cheap, and soon enough, you, too, learned to gauge the depth of human misery in terms of numbers.

It does not mean that correspondents working at foreign news organizations are callous about such things. It is just that in a world where disasters occur, bombs explode and wars are fought every day, your poor country is just a dot on a huge map.

You learned to accept that in a turbulent world, people hardly cared about that inconspicuous dot—barring volcanic eruptions, devastating cyclones, or coups.

Will the world outside care about Perlito "Pokong" Ibañez, that poor, 25-year-old triathlete champion who hanged himself in his apartment in Laguna in June last year?

Most likely not, but an enterprising INQUIRER reporter seized on the news and wrote a heart-tugging story about how despondency over financial and personal problems and government neglect pushed him to the edge.

The young man's story drove home one big difference between working for international news organizations and for a newspaper.

Major breaking stories also highlight the difference between the two worlds.

A huge earthquake jolts Manila or a passenger ship loaded with hundreds of people sinks off the Bay and in minutes, the story is out on the foreign wires and being broadcast on CNN. Every foreign agency scrambles to get the news out first.

One-minute difference

You still remember the day in July 1990 when a temblor shook the high-rise building where you worked. A nervous building supervisor ordered everyone out, saying there was a fire. You stayed on, trying to dash off a quick one paragraph so the world would know.

But you lost precious time because your seat and your computer kept shaking, and you kept on hitting the wrong keys.

The following day, an editor sitting at a desk in Singapore sent you a note thanking you for being the first to report colorful details about the quake. He also told you that another news agency had beaten you on the first break—by one minute.

The suggestion, couched in gentle words, was that someone was faster than you.

In a foreign news agency, you learned, you cannot afford to let anybody be ahead of you for a big story.

Newspapers are also gripped by a sense of urgency, but they need not be madhouses. Knowing that the story would not be read until the following morning, editors plan how the story would be developed fully—deciding which reporter will handle the trunk, and which one will write about the human interest side of the tragedy.

As you write or edit the story, one thought is always on your mind: The following day, it will be read in streets, buses, offices and homes across the country, and it will probably touch people's lives.

After all, you are a newspaperman writing for your own people, not a Manila-based foreign correspondent writing for some nameless, faceless reader in some other corner of the world who may probably wonder if your country is in Asia, or Latin America, or Africa.

Truly, the day of the grizzled dinosaur has changed.

Let's hear it from the scholars

ONLY A few years back, reporters Tarra Quismundo and Leila Salaverria were mass communication students at the University of the Philippines. Unlike other hopefuls who had to join long queues at job fairs or scan the classified ads for work, Tarra and Leila had jobs waiting for them right after graduation.

They are among the scholars sponsored by the Philippine Daily Inquirer through a unique journalism program for deserving undergraduates. Launched in 1995, the scholarship program covers tuition and other fees, a monthly stipend and a P1,000 yearly allowance for books and school supplies.

PDI scholars now with the INQUIRER are reporters Blanche Rivera, Philip Tubeza, Norman Bordadora, Michael Ubac, Jerome Aning, Leila Salaverria, Edson Tandoc Jr., Tarra Quismundo, Abigail Ho, researcher DJ Yap, editorial production assistant Jamie Alarcon, and Sunday Inquirer Magazine associate editor Ruel de Vera.

Better than show biz

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A DREAM.

This was how it was for me, a girl who read the paper as a young child and wondered how its reporters looked like. I never thought I would be one of them one day.

Now that I have been part of the INQUIRER for more than a year and have already put the faces behind the names I was once intrigued about, I feel fortunate working for a company that has been my genie.

I feel greatly indebted to the INQUIRER as it has given me opportunities that I could never imagine. Like any fantastic story, mine with the INQUIRER has been a chain of events that has made me want to work for it longer.

The scholarship it granted me led to my landing a job as an INQUIRER reporter, bearing a press ID from the nation's most respected newspaper, which in turn lent me its well-earned credibility.

I should know. There is no better feeling than being received well by strangers once they learn where I work.

Being with the INQUIRER has allowed me to have the best seats as I watch history unfold, meeting its cast of characters and writing down the drama as it happens. And the best part: relating what I had seen, heard, felt, smelled, and observed to the readers the morning after.

Best job in the world

With the INQUIRER, I feel like I have the best job in the world—I am able to do what I love and enjoy while actually doing something that is necessary to the world: delivering the news.

And I am able to do so with people who have been here since the INQUIRER was born and with new ones like me—mentors and friends with whom I share the INQUIRER experience.

Working with the INQUIRER is truly better than being in show business. As the popular television game show says, it's a chance of a lifetime.

Today I am faced with the challenge of keeping up with a paper three years my junior and with which I share the same birth month, but which has grown more mature, gone slimmer, and has become more reader-friendly than ever.

In a cutthroat world, this company is among the few that value service more than profit, and I am loving this life of a dream.

Like never leaving home

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MY FATHER was more thrilled than I was when I qualified for the Philippine Daily Inquirer Scholarship in 2001.

Part of the scholarship was working for at least a year with the newspaper after graduation. I thought then that that would close the door for many opportunities after college, like pursuing graduate studies.

After almost a year-and-a-half of working with the INQUIRER, I am now more thrilled than my father is about my profession.

He would tell me my job was very demanding, that I should have just taken up law.

High expectations

But a big coverage gives me fulfillment, even though that would mean going home late at night, dead tired.

Working with this organization means having to deal with a lot of expectations.

When I was in college, my professors would occasionally talk about INQUIRER editors, reporters and columnists as people to emulate. Working with them now is a source of both pride and pressure for me.

Outside the office, I feel the prestige of working with the INQUIRER. Many sources trust me largely because I work with a newspaper they trust. It's easy to reach interviewees because I work with a newspaper they know.

I feel very fortunate to be working with this company. I can see and feel how it takes care of its employees, how it seeks to empower every member of the team through more training. Top officials regularly meet with their employees, enough to make each of us feel important.

I am also proud to be a member of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Employees' Union.

And working with people who share my values, which other people sometimes see as too rigid, encourages me to stand by my principles. It comforts me to know I am not alone.

I grew up in a family which values integrity. Working with the Philippine Daily Inquirer is being home.

Checking if there's an 's'...

By D.J. Yap

MY first five months at the INQUIRER feels more like five weeks. A lot has happened between my first day on the job and 150 days since. A fiscal crisis, a military scandal, a super typhoon, you name it.

I'm only just beginning to catch my breath.

Working for the INQUIRER is not yet like joining the Army, but it comes close. Everywhere, every day the tempo is fast. Rush through this, zip through that. News comes and goes so quickly you have to speed along.

Along the way, the real learning begins—the kind of learning you never imagined in college.

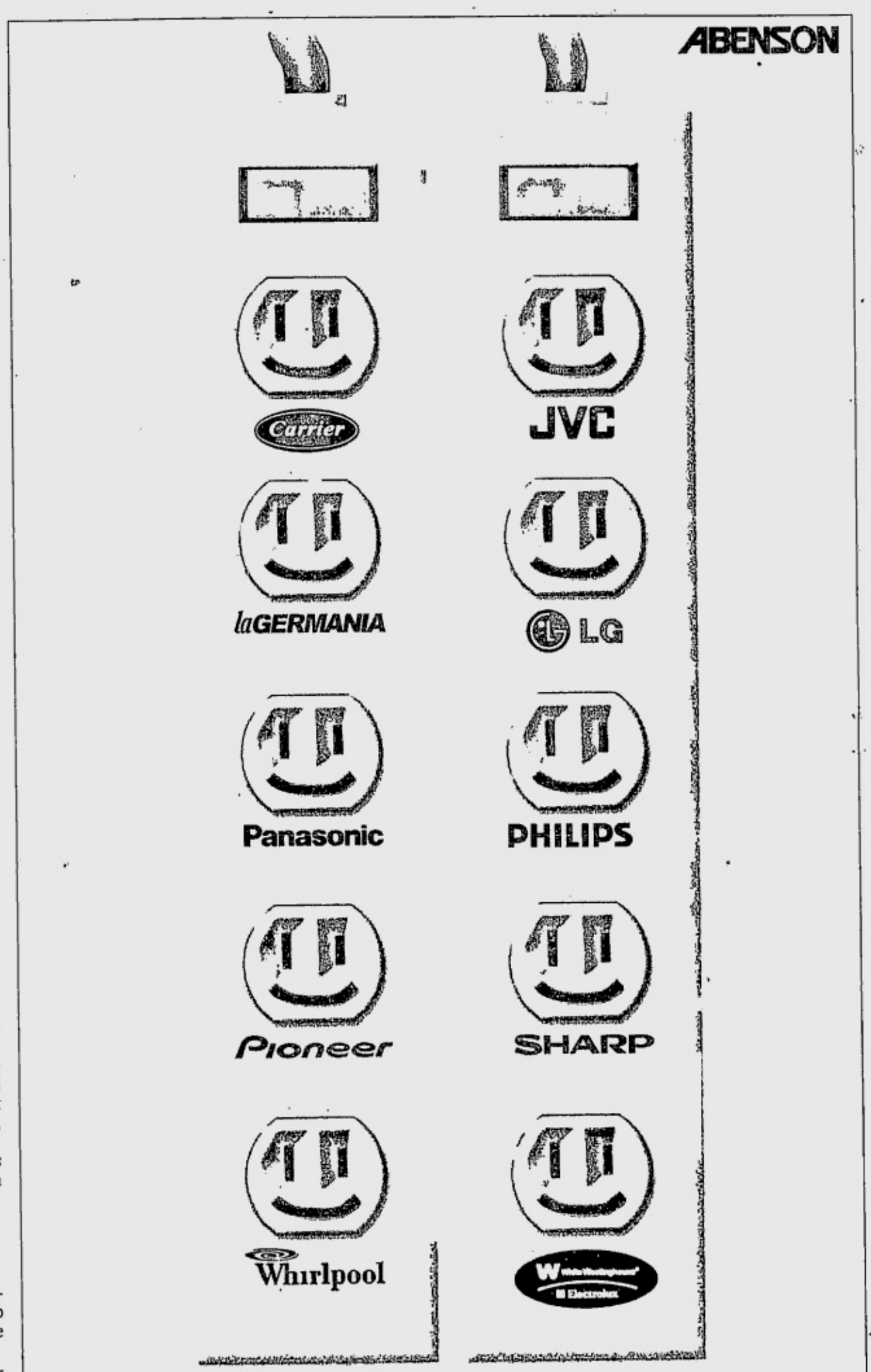
At UP Diliman I was taught the basics of the 5 Ws and 1 H (or what they jokingly called the 5 Wives and 1 Husband), the concepts of objectivity and advocacy, the journalist's code of ethics, the three supreme rules of accuracy, accuracy, accuracy.

Not learned in school

I was a PDI scholar and had interned at the INQUIRER. I knew my stuff. Fast forward to July 12, 2004, and it was a different story.

The INQUIRER—from my bosses Ma'am Miner

CHECKING/ N3



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

M1

Rocks at 19

Staying power, by fives

Inquirer at 19

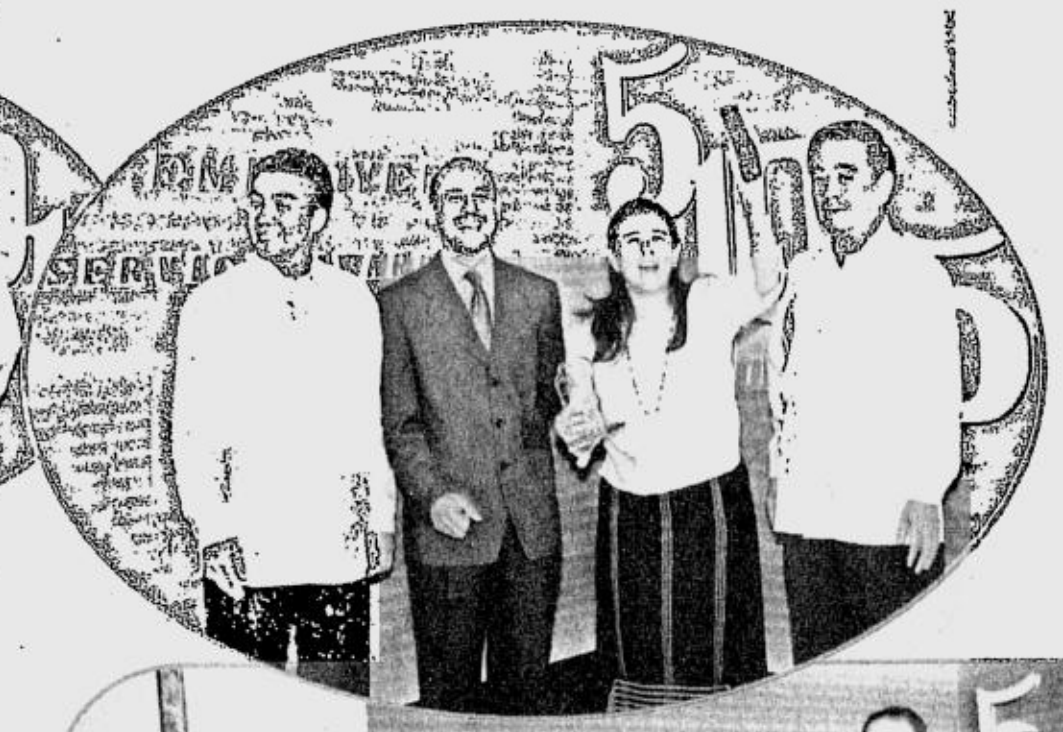
INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot said it all in a sentence. Holding his ring up symbolizing 15 years of service, he declared: "With this ring, I can say I am now forever married to the Inquirer."

Married to the job. Committed to the work. Faithful to the vision. There truly must be something about the Inquirer that makes us stay and want more, do more. Is it the promise of a higher profit share every year, or the prospect of staying forever young (Because, like soldiers, 'peryodistas' never die, they just write 30 and ride off into the sunset, or right after the paper is put to bed at night)?

In any case, we know veteran Inquirer employees when we see them, and make individual career milestones

STAYING/ M3

BOARD chair Marixi Prieto, 10 years with the Inquirer.



ECSTATIC 10-year awardee Sandy Prieto Romualdez, Inquirer president and CEO, with 15-year awardee Isagani Yambot (right), Inquirer publisher. With them are Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso (left) and SVP for corporate services Dave Valdes.

BORN into the Inquirer family in 1994, standing (from left) are Gary G. Libby, Ma. Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, Ruel S. De Vera, Rodolfo A. Isaac, Matias Dennis U. Eroa, Eugenio A. Araneta Jr, Nilda M. Montesines, Arnel E. Santos, Oscar V. Delgado. Seated, from left: Edralyn L. Benedicto, Catherine Jane F. Yamsuan, Josie M. Buño, Elizabeth S. Andres, Marixi R. Prieto, Jocelyn Y. Tabuso, and Magella L. Pinili. Fellow 1994 hirees not shown are Gil C. Cabacungan Jr, Marilou M. Arboleda, and Donabelle P. Porcalla.

HIRED in 1989, and still fired up for a full day's work are (standing, from left) Jose B. Sison, Esteban N. Villamer Jr, Agapito B. Corre Jr, Abelardo G. Mariano. Seated, from left: Aileen A. Garcia, Isagani M. Yambot, Evangeline B. Reyes, and Agnes L. Javier. Julieta L. Javellana, Christine O. Avendano, and Jose Ramil C. Rodriguez were also hired in 1989.

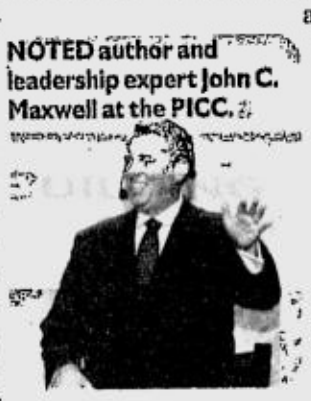
THEY first punched in 5 years ago. Clockwise, from left, are Floreno G. Solmirano, Maria Cristina R. Asuncion, Andres Ignacio C. San Mateo Jr, Sonny D. Cruz, Ma. Caridad D. Tolosa, Mary Grace S. Pagulayan, Armin Rey P. Adina, Iris E. Desvarro, Chona B. Galang, Jhonna N. Gatdula, Leah Palma P. Malcabenta, and Annalyn S. Pineda. Arnel A. Rillera, Allan F. Mortel, Maria Cristina G. Santos, Blanche S. Rivera, Philip Cesar C. Tubeza, Joselito B. Zulueta, Ma. Consuelo Banal Formoso, Alcuin V. Papa, and Maricris Irene V. Tamolang likewise first timed in in 1999.

Photos by Karl Sumbeling

Inquirer's strategic innovations in marketing communications

By Zane Ronquillo

THE YEAR 2004 probably holds the record for having the most number of innovations in Inquirer's 19-year history. This was the year that the publication launched Inquirer Badminton Monthly, the glossy JustShop magazine, and went into television via InqTV. Early in the year, the Strategic Marketing Communications (SMC) group was also formed. Under the leadership of the group's head, assistant vice president for strategic marketing communications Celine Madamba, this significant addition to the ever-growing Inquirer marketing family also houses the corporate relations office.



NOTED author and leadership expert John C. Maxwell at the PICC.

The group's main thrust is to address the concerns of advertisers and strengthen corporate image through various special events and programs designed for Inquirer's key publics and stakeholders.

Despite its relative newness, SMC was successful in launching landmark events, delivering improved results in annual programs, and solidifying relationships with readers, advertisers and the community.

Arguably SMC's most successful project this year was the launching of the Cannes Lions in Manila Festival in partnership with the Advertising Board of the Philippines. As country's official Festival Representative of the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival--regarded as the "Olympics of Advertising" -- the Inquirer brought in the world's most creative and impactful ads this year to local shores. This was Inquirer's way of encouraging the Filipino advertising industry to further explore creativity and bring home the country's first Cannes Lion award in advertising.

From Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, Filipinos were exposed to the winningest creative advertising executions at the Greenbelt mall in Ayala Center, Makati. After the swanky launch cocktails at the Greenbelt 3 park hosted by Ces Drilon and Pinky Webb, top advertising and marketing professionals were able to view the winning television ads at MyCinema and Cinema 2 for the rest of the week. Meanwhile the winners in the press/print, outdoor and direct marketing were exhibited at the cinema lobby.

The group's main thrust is to address the concerns of advertisers and strengthen corporate image through various special events and programs designed for Inquirer's key publics and stakeholders

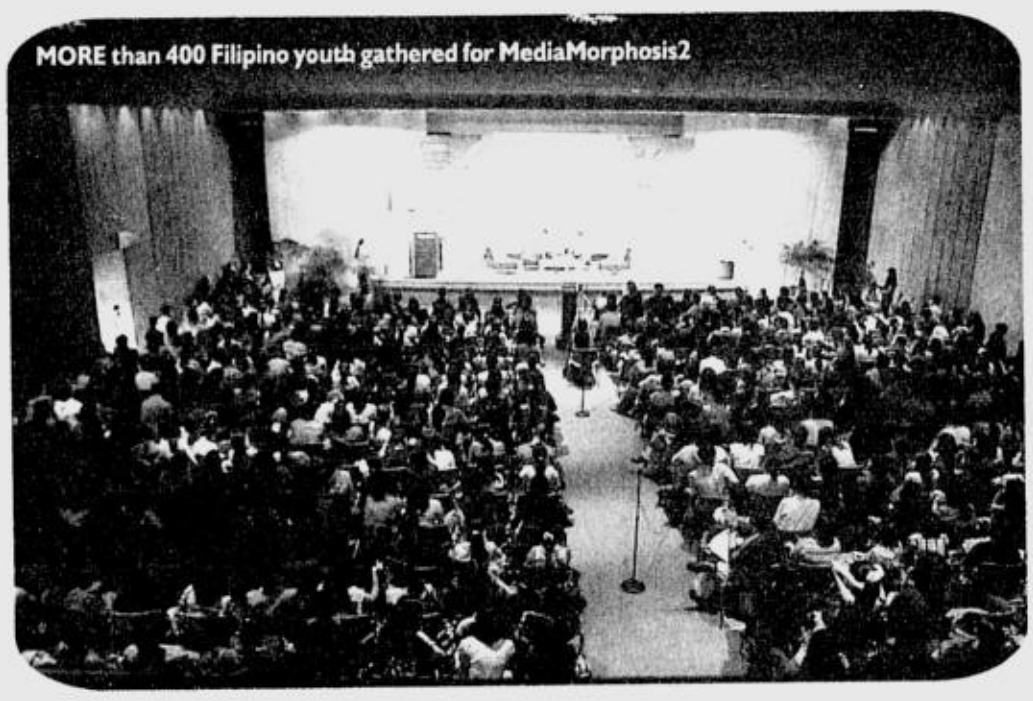
Another notable event was the first offering of the Inquirer Executive Seminar Series co-presented with PLDT and organized by Salt and Light Ventures. Entitled "Maxwell in Manila", it brought in record crowds during the twinbill engagement at Araneta Coliseum last September. More than 17,000 attended the seminars conducted by noted author and leadership expert Dr. John C. Maxwell.

Aside from opening doors to key decision-makers via several executive luncheons, dinners and even cocktails, SMC also serves as media and marketing consultant by providing business reviews, market research and feedback mechanism as exclusive services to Inquirer's major clients. Among the organizations that SMC has played host to this year include Citibank, Ford, Globe, GMA Network, Metrobank Foundation, Mitsubishi, Pfizer, PLDT, Toyota, Unilab, Unilever, and Smart Communications.

Groups and institutions like the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines, Center for Culinary Arts and Cravings, De La Salle University Chorale, LaSallian Scholarum Awards, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and even the 2004 Ms. Earth winner were also warmly welcomed in the Makati headquarters.

On March 3, more than 30 top-level executives (including Henry Sy, Washington Sycip, Edward Ferreira and Tony Tan Caktiong) attended the Management Association of the Philippines' (MAP) cocktails hosted by Inquirer and held at the Inquirer building's second floor multi-purpose area. The night was a tribute to Ambassador Jesus Tambunting (chair and CEO of Planters Bank), who was proclaimed MAP's Management Man of the Year, and also celebrated David Balangue's (chair and managing partner of SGV & Co.) installment as MAP president.

INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez with French Ambassador Renee Veyret and Ayala Corp president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II



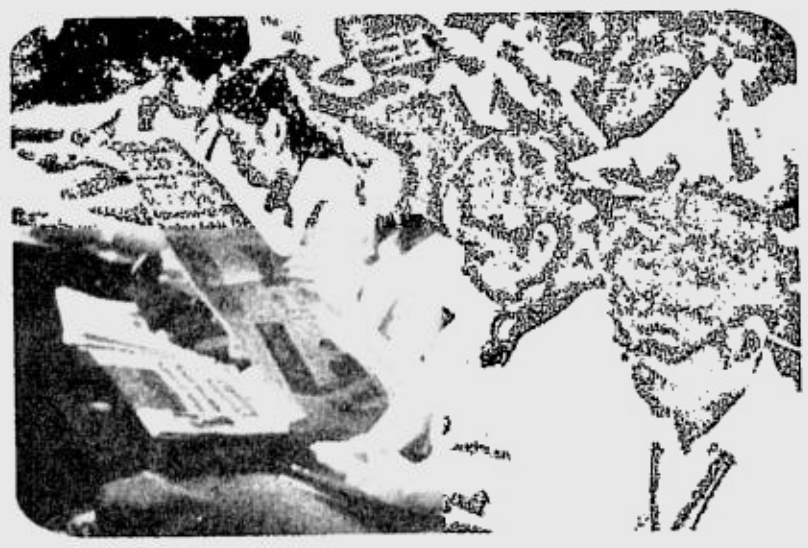
MORE than 400 Filipino youth gathered for MediaMorphosis2

On the community and youth development front, SMC's corporate relations office takes centerstage, delivering maximum results in the thriving Inquirer Youth Readership Program and partnering with other groups for special projects.

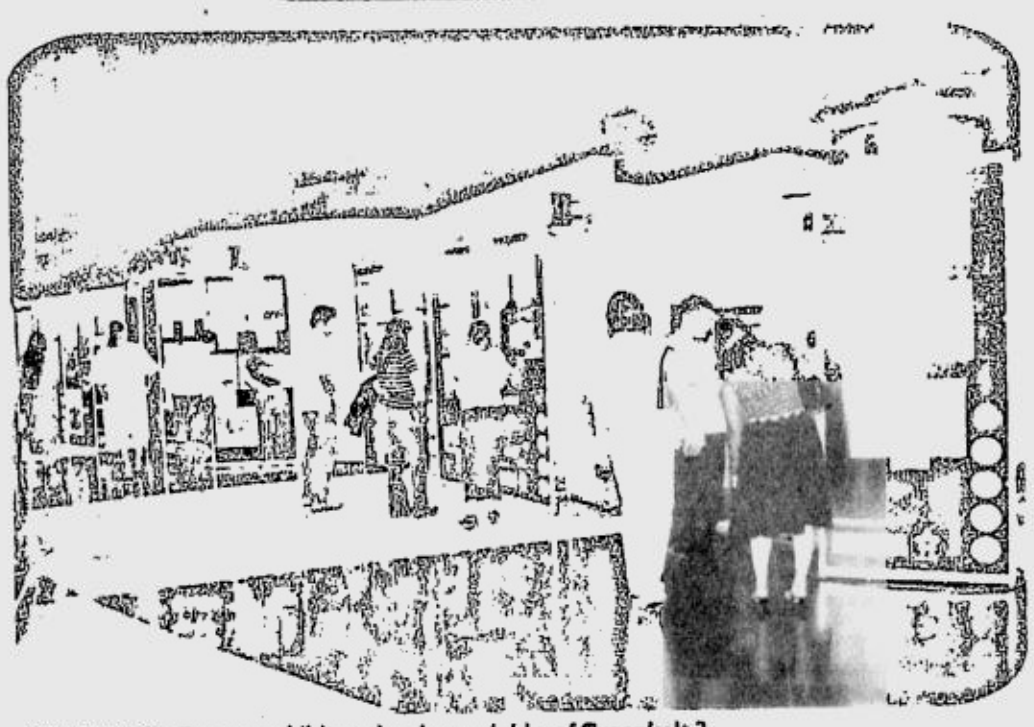
This year alone, more than 1,000 young Filipinos flocked to both installments of the Inquirer Seminar Series, the first one on media was held last July and the second one on technology and national identity was held last October. Getting speakers like Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, Sheila Coronel, Ruel de Vera, Ambeth Ocampo, Grace Nono, even

INQUIRER/M5

LINIS-Ganda's Bong Teves and Narda Camacho formalize the New Paper Drive partnership with Inquirer president Sandy Romualdez and assistant vice president for strategic marketing communications Celine Madamba.



STUDENTS reading the Inquirer during the Inquirer Seminar Series.



A VIEW of the Cannes exhibit at the cinema lobby of Greenbelt 3

STUDENTS posing with Inquirer's Guyito

Staying power, by fives

From page M1

corporate event that deserve a serenade or two from a teen heartthrob.

So, two days ago, on a sunny afternoon before the sun set, the Inquirer held its 'Parangal at Pasasalamat' for employees who had stayed on for five, 10 and 15 years.

No tears were shed, no bitter memories revisited. How could we? Teen singer Mark Bautista disarmed us with his boyishly handsome features and an equally handsome voice. The "then" and "now" pictures flashed across the projectors as the awardees' names were called made us wonder how much they changed, or stayed the same, in the looks department

We could only remember happy thoughts in multiples of five, and if that made us feel like flying, that sensation was short lived, as reality must have dawned upon those who proudly held their plaques up as the cameras flashed away. Just after the last name was called, 51 pairs of feet promptly landed back down on the Inquirer's polished floor.

They wouldn't let Inquirer go. The Inquirer wouldn't let them go. Not for Neverland.

We expect them back to work on Monday, like a dutiful spouse coming back home after a hard day's night.

The secrets to work longevity

The short articles below and on pages M4 and M5 are excerpted from an INQsider article. INQsider, prepared by Inquirer employees, is the official newsletter of the Inquirer.

Who better to ask how to stay happily employed in the Inquirer than the people who have just been that in the Inquirer for 5, 10 and 15 years?

Their answers may be as varied as the colors of a retro rainbow, but one thing comes out clear: it isn't just about punching in on time and "playing by the rules". Sometimes, the best work is done outside the confines of the building, and in many instances, the Inquirer has come out stronger by thinking out of the box and conjuring up the most innovative of ideas at the last possible nanosecond.

Seven veterans share their secrets of staying on, and staying young, in one of the most competitive print media publications in the country.

Be settled in

"I LOVE the Inquirer. *Dito na ako tumanda* [I grew old here]," declares Agnes Javier, executive secretary for the marketing division and one of this year's service awardees.

"I don't work just for the money anymore," she told the Inqsider. "Being part of an excellent team and having a considerate boss makes me happy."

Javier, a commerce graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, joined the Inquirer as classified ads account executive on June 19, 1989.

"I was hesitant to accept the position because I knew I wasn't that good at selling."

Javier sold advertising space to government and private offices in Manila.

Nobody knew the Inquirer then. "We didn't even have cellular phones, fax machines or the Internet."

In 1995, she became executive secretary to David O. Valdes, then VP for classified ads. Last June, Javier moved to marketing as executive secretary to VP for Marketing Donald Lim. Trading the field job for office work has its advantages. "I got to know the people working inside Inquirer. I also learned to use the computer."

Heed your calling

WRITING is her true calling, the reason the by-line of Christine Avendaño still appears in the pages of the Inquirer 15 years after it was first printed.

A journalism graduate of UP-Diliman, Christine was a features writer for an Ateneo-affiliated agency before the Inquirer hired her as its reporter in 1989.

In 15 years, Christine made the rounds--from the police beat to the airport, Labor, Health, Immigration, Phivolcs, Congress, DFA, DENR and DSWD. "I've covered almost all of the beats already," she says. She looks forward to covering the Malacañang and Justice beats.

She considers foreign affairs to have been the most challenging beat. "It's hard to develop sources at DFA because we deal with diplomats," she reveals.

Christine says she has been writing hard news stories from the very first day she stepped out of the Inquirer office to come face to face with what she calls the "real world." Every now and then, though, Christine yearns to dabble more in writing features.

Go the extra (s)mile

SOMETIMES, you have to "take one for the team." Surprisingly, you find yourself still smiling.

Publisher Isagani Yambot's most challenging task for the Philippine Daily Inquirer was acting as spokesperson at the height of the ad boycott mounted against the Inquirer by the cronies of President Joseph Estrada in 1999.

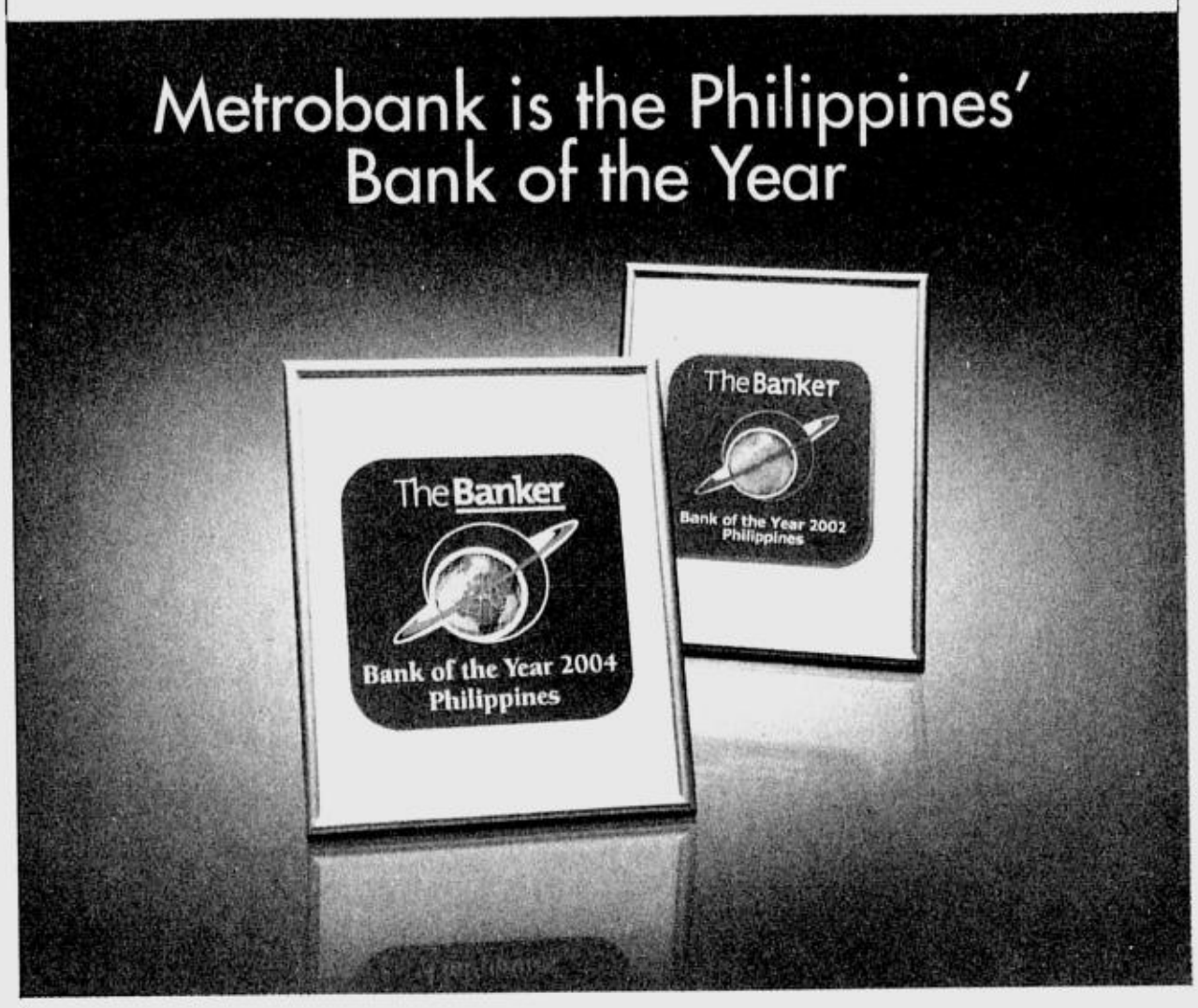
He says he had to answer the questions of radio commentators in early-morning programs, appear on TV, speak at meetings of organizations and issue press statements on behalf of the Inquirer.

And that's on top of adapting to the paper's ever-changing corporate and technological character.

"I am reminded of what I used to tell reporters who would ask me when they would get another raise: 'You will soon get your reward-in heaven.'" Gani, however, believes he's getting his reward here on earth, in terms of "psychic satisfaction for a job well done.".

With a job you actually like and a colleague who provides you with such happy memories, how can one even dare think of leaving Inquirer?

We've done it before, we did it again.



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Metrobank is both proud and honored to be recognized once more for our hard work and dedication. We are always finding ways to improve our banking infrastructure and strategies. We continue to invest in technology to improve our efficiency and service delivery. Inspired by your trust and support, we will work even harder to scale greater heights and reach farther and wider.

To you, our shareholders and clients, THANK YOU.

Together, we did it!

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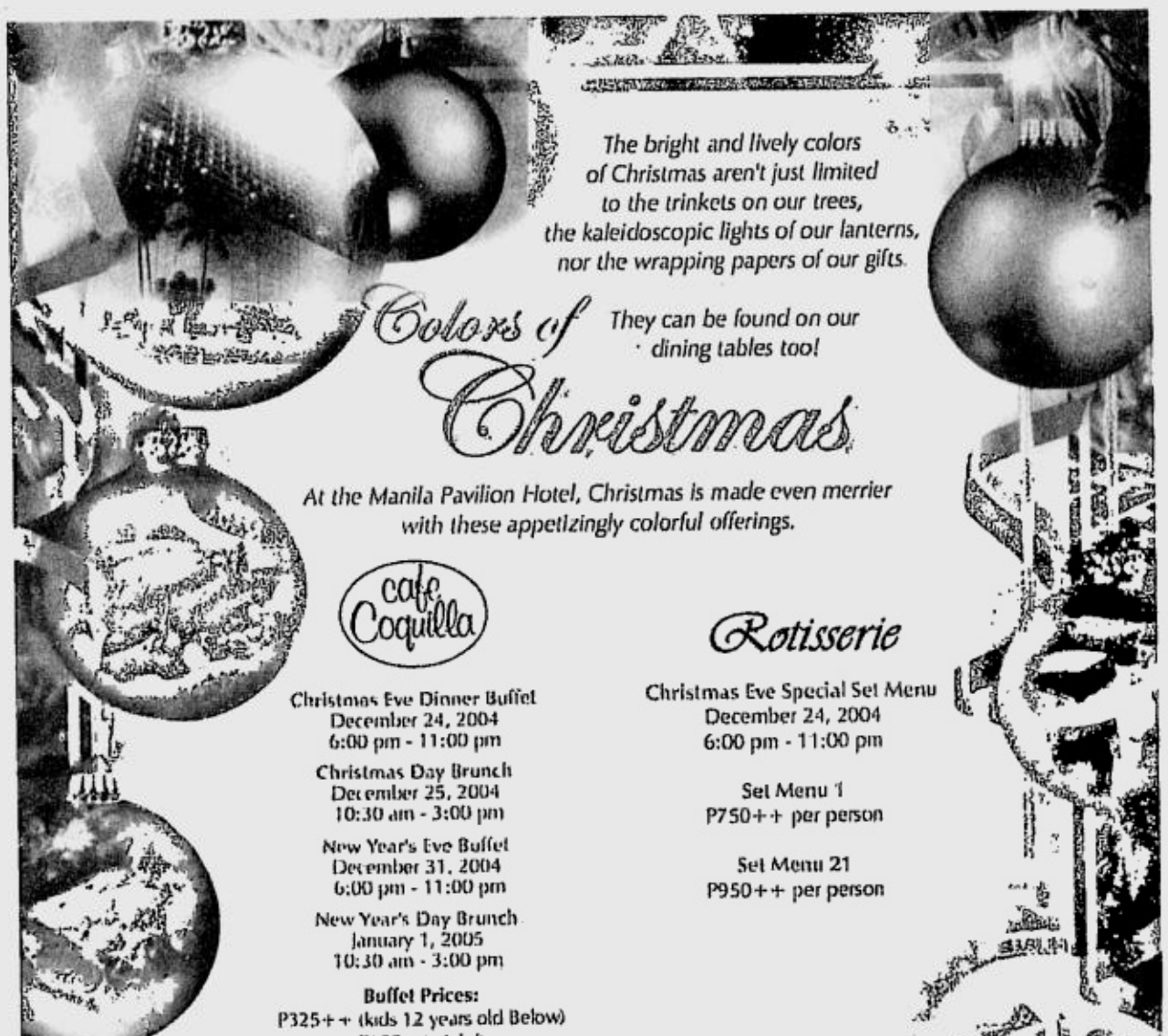

Readers love the new compact look.

Circulation has shot up 16% in only two months.

CEBU DAILY NEWS
CEBU'S ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The fastest growing regional paper in the Visayas.

Stay on the money

INQUIRER'S financial stability made Agapito "Jun" Corre stay with the company for 15 years.

Jun, who studied at the Philippine Maritime Institute, said the Inquirer provides "good" compensation compared to other companies.

Jun was a security guard at the Inquirer for three years before the company hired him as labeling clerk, then desk clerk for circulation.

With his first profit share in 1990, Jun said he bought a refrigerator and a TV set.

Office is 2nd home

A FATHER to five kids, Abelardo "Larry" Mariano certainly knows his way around the kitchen. An honor guard for the Immaculate Concepcion Parish Knights of Columbus in Pasig, Larry spends his free time shooting hoops with his two sons.

Mariano took up Electronics and Communications Engineering at the University of the East for two years before working for Allied Bank. It was there he met his wife of 20 years.

During his eight years as messenger to the bank, he acquired his BS Business Administration degree at the National College of Business Administration. He eventually became a production coordinator for GMA 7.

In June 1987, he joined the Inquirer and handled direct accounts and supplements for the advertising department. A contractual account executive (AE) for two years, he recounts the meeting with Inquirer board chair Marixi Prieto after coming from a sales seminar in Subic. Larry said his group was asked to share what they learned, and when it was his turn, his mind went blank since most of what he prepared to say was already mentioned by other AEs. The incident apparently did not hamper his PDI career, as he became a regular employee in September 1989. Larry says he still enjoys work in a company "whose management maintains good relations with its workers."

Be self-motivated

STRAIGHT from college, Aileen Garcia, at age 20, was the youngest employee hired by the Inquirer in June 1989. She started out as a classifieds ads account executive assigned to the Inquirer's Cubao branch. It was a red-letter day for Aileen when Palmera Homes, one of Manila Bulletin's big advertisers, finally gave its nod to a multiple line ad booking after a month-long courtship. When Super Ads was introduced in 1993, she became branch manager. Super Ads may have come and gone, but Aileen, and the position she holds, remain.

The dream that someday the Inquirer would be regarded as *the*classified ads paper of choice motivates her to continue providing dedicated service to the company. Widowed for seven years, this mother to a 9-year-old boy remarried January 2001 and soon gave birth to Pearl Margareth, now 2.

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(Direct Lines) : (632) 359-8019 (PRINTING & WRITING PAPER)
(632) 334-2916
(632) 362-7834 (CONTAINERBOARD)
Telefax Nos. : (632) 334-2917 / (632) 334-2921
E-mail address : info@bataan2020.net

Inquirer's strategic innovations . . .

From page M2

JOHN Maxwell shares a light moment with Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

Kidlat Tahimik, the Inquirer Seminar Series is one of the readership programs most popular events. Meanwhile, Inquirer continues to promote issue-awareness through the Inquirer InterCollegiate Debating

Championship and the Inquirer-2bU! InterSchool Debating Championship.

To address the continuing environmental degradation, the office spearheads the annual New Paper Drive which starts every June 5 in commemoration of World Environment Day. This year, more than 90,000 kilos of old newspapers and tabloids were recycled, bringing the total number of trees saved through the drive since its 2001 inception to over 4,000.

Living up to Inquirer's credo of "News that makes a difference", the office was also able to take part in Bayanihang Baseco, a relief drive for the victims of the fire that razed the Tondo compound early this year; and Eleksyon 2004, a campaign to inform the public and encourage them to vote wisely during this year's presidential elections.

For all its efforts, SMC won four distinguished awards early in the year: Anvil Awards of Merit for both the Inquirer Youth Readership Program and the New Paper Drive; and Gold Quill Awards of Excellence for both the corporate brochure and the New Paper Drive.

Currently, SMC is developing a corporate website and is gearing up for Inquirer's 20th anniversary celebration next year.

More are in store in 2005 as SMC hopes to be able to provide more of Inquirer's brand of useful services to readers, advertisers and Philippine society.

Focus on 'the one'

UP TO today, Ramil Rodriguez's life's direction has been as straight and true as an arrow. A BS Commerce graduate majoring in Accounting from Centro Escolar University, Ramil joined the Inquirer right after graduating in 1989. He worked as an accounting clerk for three years and then joined the audit department as audit assistant in 1992. A vacancy in the purchasing department paved the way for him to earn a supervisory post. He has been heading purchasing for four years now.

The day he was hired by the Inquirer, he did not even think of applying in other companies.

He recalls the first time he got his profit share, which amounted to around P9,000. He gave the amount to his mother, he said.

Ramil, a native of Malolos, Bulacan, met his wife, Marife, in an Internet chatroom. After meeting in person, they became a couple. Barely a year in the relationship, they tied the knot in 1999. Marife works for the Department of Labor and Employment. They are blessed with a boy, turning 4, and a 10-month-old girl.

Find someone to love

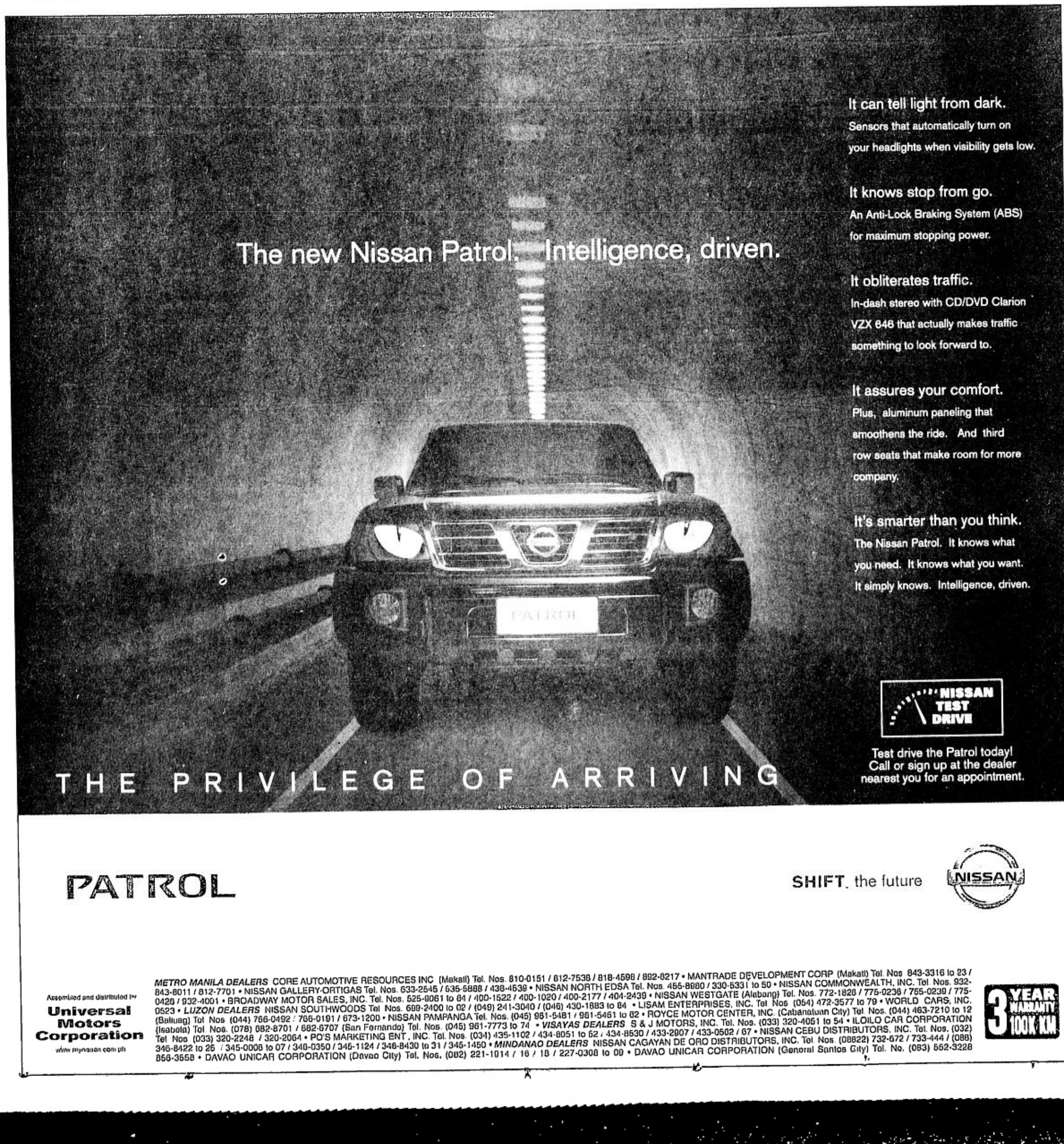
WHEN Vangie Baga-Reyes started working as a proofreader for the Inquirer in October 1989, she never thought she would find more than just a job she enjoyed but a loving husband, too. "This was my first job out of college and in here, I was able to nurture my career; I also met my husband here, eventually had two kids—these are just among the many wonderful things I and the Inquirer have been through," adds Vangie.

And indeed, Vangie's friends agree that her most memorable experience would most probably be finding Marc, husband and father to her two precious angels, Mavi and Maxi. The two tied the knot in 1998. At that time, Marc was a reporter for sports, while Vangie was a reporter for lifestyle.

Unknown to some, Vangie's talents are not of writing alone—this girl can definitely give you a run for your money when it comes to singing and dancing. She can whip up a good meal as well!

With a job you actually like and a colleague who provides you with such happy memories, how can one even dare think of leaving Inquirer?

With reports from Abbie Brual, Amy Remo, Chay Montegrande, Anna Pineda, Jaycee Cruz, Jocelyn R. Uy, and Lui Villarico



Congratulations
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
on its 19th Anniversary

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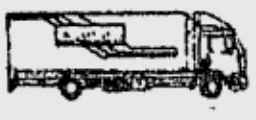

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Cell No. 0917-8450159

VCC FORWARDING
Vernie C. Cristuta
— Proprietor
Purok 8 Camputhaw
Cebu City
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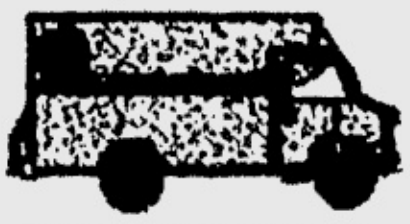

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PHONE NOS: (052) 820-3268 (052) 480-5506	PHONE NOS: (02) 303-0278 (02) 522-8505	PHONE NO: (054) 811-3805	PHONE NO: (052) 487-7311

Daily trip: LEGAZPI to MANILA and VICE VERSA

"Quality delivery service is our concern."

The '46% pose'

UTTER delight. That's the look of having half of the cake (and eating it, too). As the day ends, general display advertising staff members go home smiling. Shown are Anna Pineda, Carol Javier, Beth Andres, Richard Cuaresma, Aries Espinosa, Mel Fernandez, Rey Cruz, Normandy de la Paz, Alizza Butiong, Gelly Badocdoc, advertising AVP Kenny Nuyda, Jenny Rockwell, Izelle Medina, Cherry Vitalicio, Elena de los Reyes, Gina Layague, Mylene de Jesus, Raquel Gomez, Chona Agustin, VP Pepito Olarte, Aggie Pinili, and Lita Pascual,

Inquirer advertising VP Pepito Olarte utters just one number when asked what the most significant achievement Inquirer general display ads has achieved thus far in 2004: '46%'. 'That', he explains 'is the Inquirer's market share for display ads versus all other broadsheets.' He hastens to add that with the business group's perseverance, resourcefulness and flexibility propped up by the Inquirer editorial group's credibility and reliability, Inquirer readers can look forward to relishing more pages of balanced news and fearless views, not to mention more eye-catching ads, too

Congratulations from

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Eastwood City

The Star of the Season

Paskonsiyerto

AT CENTRAL PLAZA

Dec. 4 (Sat.), 8 PM
Paskuhang Pilipino

Relive the country's
Christmas pastoral traditions in a
theater-style performance featuring:

Nolyn Cabahug
Ayen Munji
Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group
Philippine Symphonic Band

Dec. 11 (Sat.), 8 PM
Paskopella

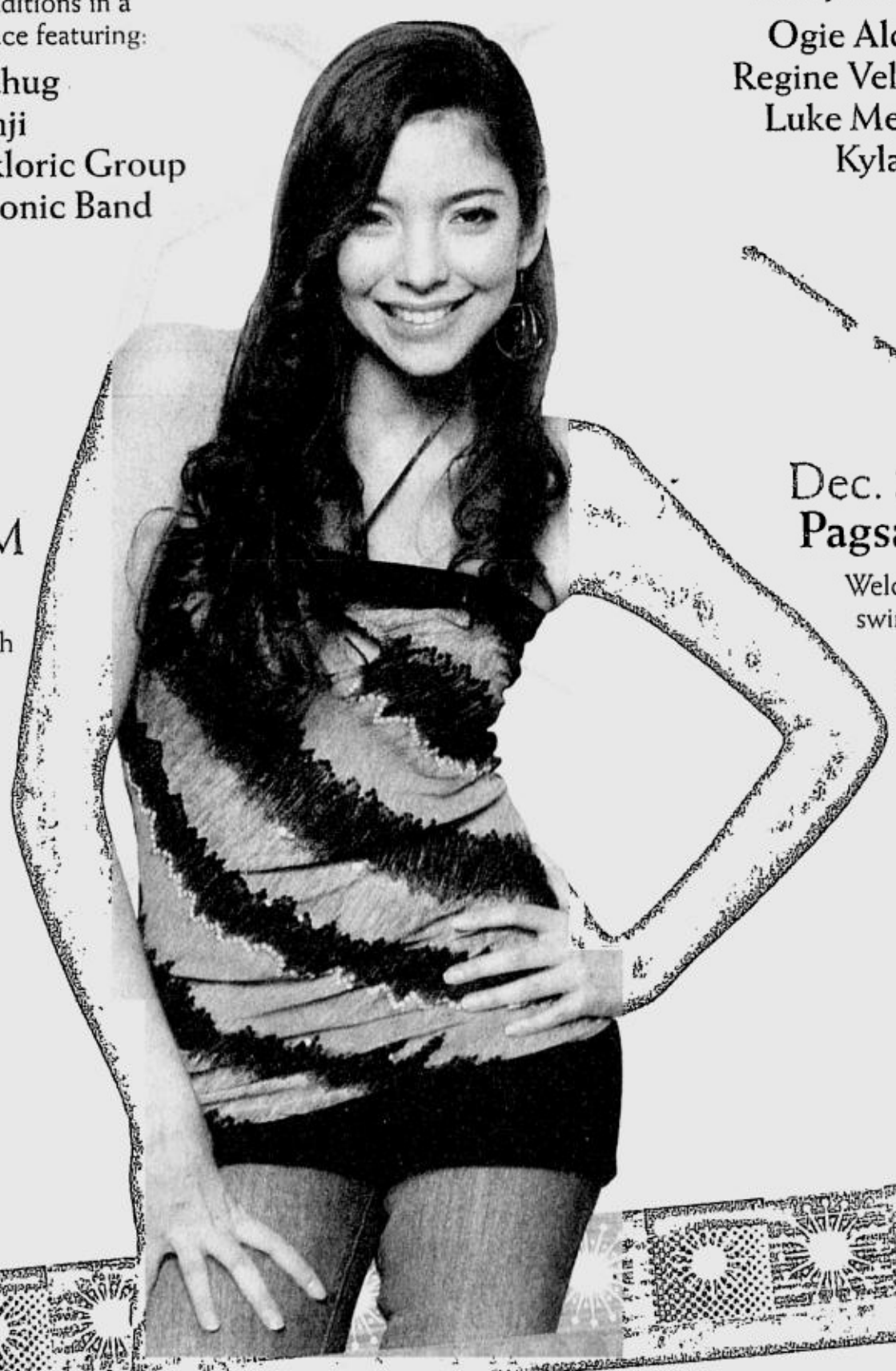
Help yourself to a feast of
yuletide carols from the
maestros of a capella:

The Company
TUX

Dec. 18 (Sat.), 8 PM
Pop Pasko

A sparkling evening of popular
holiday tunes from:

Ogie Alcasid
Regine Velasquez
Luke Mejares
Kyla



Dec. 25 (Sat.), 8 PM
Paskoral

Enter the realm of the divine with
soul-stirring performances by:

UP Concert Chorus
Montserrat Singers
Bukas Palad
Singing Ambassadors
Joan Cano

Dec. 31 (Fri.), 8 PM
Pagsalubong 2005

Welcome the New Year
swinging to the funky
Latin beat of:

La Carlota
Sipol
Paze Band

Fireworks Galore!

Christmas won't be complete without
Eastwood City's weekend fireworks spectaculars.
All Fridays and Saturdays of December, 10 PM;
Dec. 31 (Fri.), 12 MN.

Must-see Musical

What happens if Santa calls it quits?
Find out the answer in "December Hints of Mistletoe,"
a musical presented by the Koine Theater Group Foundation.
Dec. 3, 10, 17 (Fridays), 7PM, at Eastwood City Walk II.

Eastwood City

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

N

THE INQUIRER ON TV

100 episodes, and counting ...

By John Nery
Executive Producer, InqTV

AS THE video fates would have it, InqTV celebrated the INQUIRER's 19th anniversary yesterday with a milestone of its own: its 100th episode.

That's a lot of TV, especially for a start-up that's been on the air for only nine and a half months. In fact, adding up the 15-minute episodes in the extended first season and the one-hour broadcast in the second and third seasons, that's a total of almost 44 hours of airtime on ABC, since February 23.

But it isn't the math that excites us (although the financial numbers, especially in the third season, are reason enough). It's the stories.

A few come immediately to mind.

Our first memorable "get" (or important interview, in US industry parlance), featuring the only one-on-one then-Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario ever granted, at the height of the controversy over her appointment to the Supreme Court.

Our special episode on the dilemma faced by presidential candidate Raul Roco. As early as March 15, a month before his extraordinary "medical leave," we had already raised the terrible question: "*May pag-asa pa ba si* Roco?"

Our episode on the new senators from show business, especially the feature on Sen. Lito Lapid and his incredible translation machine.

But good stories are not defined by mere access to the powerful or the political.

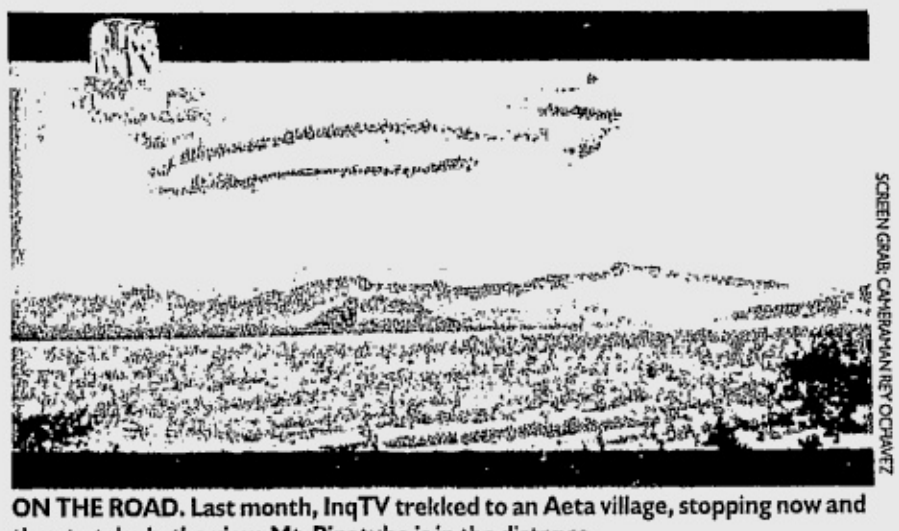
A political time

To be sure, InqTV has had more than its share of political stories, but that was because it was born in a political time. It went on air at the start of the national campaign period for the May elections—a great time, story-wise. We had an embarrassment of stories to choose from, stories we used to cut our teeth with, stories we used to learn the business.

By and large, we were guided by what we believe the public needed to know at that crucial time. We aired, for instance, a couple of stories on the party list, and a story about public perception of the advertising campaigns of the different presidential candidates. (That of the incumbent and eventual winner was adjudged by a group of University of Santo Tomas students the most insincere.)

But we also tried our darnedest to air stories about the powerless. We ran a 14-minute story on the life of informal settlers (squatters, to those of us born before political correctness became fashionable) and an equally lengthy story on the experience of the perpetually flooded in the Camanava area. (Nothing remotely Venetian about it.) We ran a tale of two cities, so to speak, comparing the entrenched bias against the Muslims of Maharlika village, with the inchoate one against the Muslims of Virra Mall. (Plenty of Dickens in it.) We stayed among Aeta villagers to tell their story, awed by the landscape, but saddened by the steady encroachment of everything urban, including that dance from hell, the *otso-otso*.

In truth, there are too many stories to recount. But the wonderful thing is, we are only at the beginning. And that means there are many more stories to look forward to.



SCREEN GRAB: CAMERAMAN REY OCHAVEZ

ON THE ROAD. Last month, InqTV trekked to an Aeta village, stopping now and then to take in the view. Mt. Pinatubo is in the distance.

Going undercover

By Christine Ong
Reporter-Producer, InqTV

OUR TAGLINE, our signature phrase, is something we in InqTV take very seriously.

In pursuit of the eye-opening or consciousness-raising story, I have had the chance to do many things—including personally applying to become an escort girl.

At the height of the escort service scandal, I wanted to investigate the issue without dipping into the bag of usual tricks, for example by catching escort girls providing escort-plus services on tape. Instead, I went undercover, applying as an escort girl through various means and finally and personally experiencing how easy it was for this illegal trade to flourish. How? Simply through the use of advertisements in the broadsheets, phone directories, and the classifieds.

Congress, through the office of Rep. Liza Maza of the Gabriela Women's Party, took note, promising to conduct a congressional inquiry on the escort service business. This inquiry, however, has yet to push through.

Four stories

By Melanie de Ocampo
Reporter-Producer, InqTV

MY REPORT on Muslim discrimination was, by far, the most challenging coverage I have had in my six years in TV. In all candor, I can now say that my crew and I were terrified when we penetrated Maharlika Village, something we never expected. Of course, I look back differently on that time now.

The scare we got from that series of interviews, however, was nothing compared to the time we went to Cotabato to revisit war-torn areas. The trickiest part was listening to the victims as they went on and on about their plight, and reminding yourself not to take sides.

I also remember a story I produced on the festering garbage problem. The story, told from the garbage pit itself, including a visit inside the "house" of one garbage scavenger, exposed the real life of these grass-roots entrepreneurs.

I also enjoyed doing a story on microfinance because it was a story on empowering women. I didn't expect that viewers would actually call InqTV to find out more about how microfinance can help them change their lives. It was an affirmation of the impact the story had on people who live below the poverty line.

This kind of stories I wouldn't trade for anything. While it is true that the excitement of reporting lies in being where the action is, in covering events as they unfold right before your eyes, a reporter is fulfilled when she knows she has had the chance to touch other people's lives, and other people have touched hers.

Get it light

By Maey Bautista
Segment Host, Tanong ng Bayan, InqTV

I'VE BEEN a wife, a high school girl in love, a business tycoon, a "taong grasa," I've even been a "manananggal." I've been all these, and more, because I host the Tanong ng Bayan for InqTV.

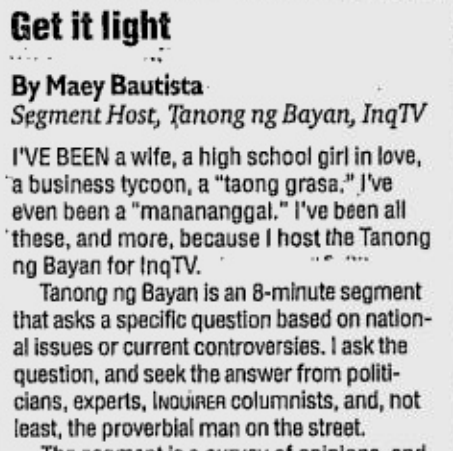
Tanong ng Bayan is an 8-minute segment that asks a specific question based on national issues or current controversies. I ask the question, and seek the answer from politicians, experts, INQUIRER columnists, and, not least, the proverbial man on the street.

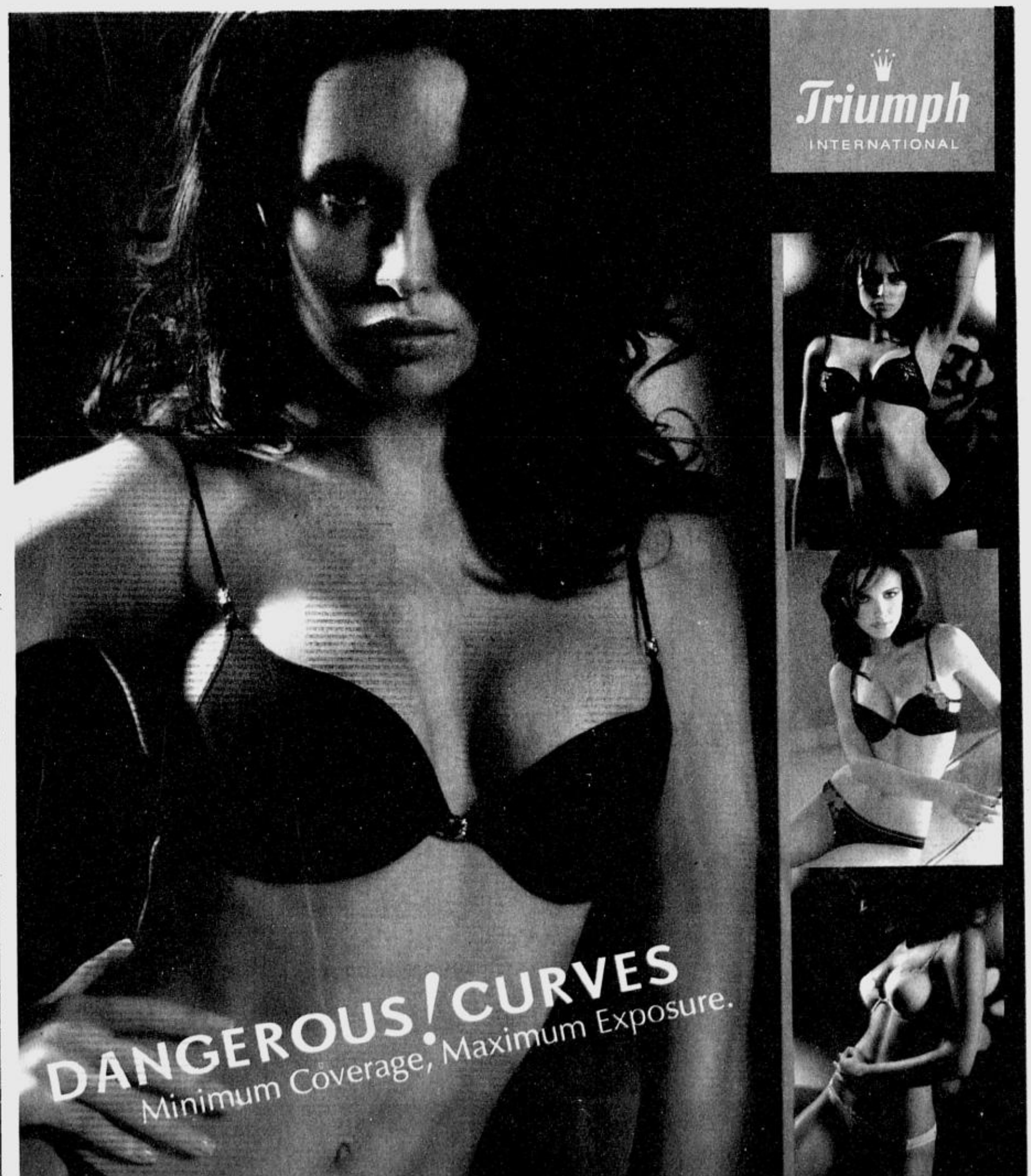
The segment is a survey of opinions, and more often than not, feisty interviewees with fearless opinions make things, shall we say, more interesting. This all sounds like serious business. It is, but only up to a point.

A segment on taxes had me crawling and begging on a dingy overpass in Quiapo; a passerby actually gave me P2. Another time, I was a telenovela star shedding tear after tear while my "husband" ate pork for a feature on the pork barrel. And once I was even a model sashaying down a catwalk...of tomb stones (it was, I hasten to add, for an All Soul's Day episode).

Don't get me wrong. My aim is not to make fun of news, but rather, to present viewers an alternative way to get it light every Thursday night.

Wait, that sounds like a tag line I can use!





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By Stella Gonzales
Editor, Inquirer News Service

ALTHOUGH the INQUIRER News Service (INS) had been in existence since 2000, it was only this year when it went into full operation following the appointment of a full-time editor and desk editor.

For years, the INS' main function was to act as the gatekeeper of INQUIRER content—stories, columns, photos and infographics. Its primary job was to send edited materials to its subscribers, including the news website INQ7.net (a joint venture of the INQUIRER and GMA 7 network established in 2001) and a few foreign clients.

The year 2004 saw INS evolve from a simple gatekeeper into a news service, although not yet on the scale of the wire agencies. Take note of the word "yet."

INS started the year with a project that had long been in the back burner: providing news to INQUIRER's affiliate company, the INQUIRER Publications Inc. (IPI), specifically its newspapers Cebu Daily News (CDN), Bandera and Tumbok.

IPI, in particular, was interested in running stories and photos from the INQUIRER's four provincial bureaus. After all, one of the reasons the INQUIRER has remained ahead of the competition is that its bureaus are staffed by some of the best journalists in the provinces.

So how could the INQUIRER provide these stories to IPI's newspapers without the latter looking exactly like the INQUIRER broadsheet?

This is where INS comes in. It is the job of INS editors to sift through the large volume of stories and photos from PDI's provincial correspondents each day, check them for accuracy, and edit them for brevity, before passing the finished product to CDN, Bandera and Tumbok under the tagline "Inquirer News Service."

So when you see a story or photo in another newspaper bearing that tagline, that means it passed through INS.

Breaking news

The May 10 national and local elections brought another challenge to INS: INQ7.net needed to regularly update its breaking news page in its website throughout the day, and it wanted to use stories from the INQUIRER aside from the articles written by its own staff.

For INQUIRER's reporters and correspondents who had been used to submitting their articles in the afternoon, being asked to turn in brief stories as soon as they occurred was a new concept. After all, why submit a story early in the day right after the event occurred when the newspaper is printed at night?

Yet, the PDI news staff supported the breaking news project. Many of the paper's provincial correspondents were regularly calling their respective bureau chiefs and the INS to submit breaking stories.

When the Commission on Elections disqualified presidential wannabe Eddie Gil, INS, through PDI Comelec reporter Martin Marfil, was able to give the story to INQ7, just as the news was breaking on AM radio. INQ7 uploaded the story in its website a few minutes later.

When soldiers and barangay officials shot it out in Tagum, Davao del Norte, on Election Day, the PDI Mindanao Bureau sent the story right away to the INS office in Makati via modem. We beat all the other media entities, even the wires, to the story.

When the Philippine Airlines website was hacked last Nov. 30, INS was able to break the story, submitted by the Mindanao Bureau, just minutes after.

And these are just three samples of the many breaking stories that gave the PDI staff the adrenaline rush experienced by many broadcast journalists reporting on a live event.

Not bad for the PDI news staff that for years had been used to afternoon deadlines, huh?

Still the gatekeeper

This is not to say that the INS has ceased being the gatekeeper of the newspaper's content. The section's main function is still to protect the INQUIRER's copyright interests when it comes to its stories, columns, photos and infographics.

All parties that want to reprint or reuse INQUIRER material are required to seek permission from the INS, whether it's going to be used for personal, profit or altruistic purposes.

Big plans

INS has already been getting a lot of requests, despite the lack of a public announcement about the availability of INQUIRER materials for re-use. No request is unanswered; even questions from students working on a school project are entertained (although there have been times when they would be told to check

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What's thumbs up, thumbs down about life in Lifestyle

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Editor, Lifestyle

FIVE years ago, when the editor in chief asked me to join the INQUIRER as editor of the Lifestyle section, the first person I informed about the offer was my dad. Although a big INQUIRER fan, he had mixed emotions about the news. He was happy because he knew, despite my having gone back to college to take up Special Education, that journalism was still tops on my list of dangerous obsessions. But he said it would take irrational courage on my part to accept a job with a paper that was at the time reeling from an advertising boycott.

Well, my dad realized soon enough that I had picked a winner. The advertisers came back in less time than it took Erap to sign Jose Velarde on his bank slips.

And now, wherever it is in heaven that my father is reading this, I'm happy to report to him that the last five years have been one amazing race—against deadlines, flight departures, planning meetings and journalistic coups—yes, but at the same time my cup runneth over with thrills like celebrity interviews, exciting innovations, cutting edge photography and an almost endless opportunity to act as *agent provocateur*.

It is this last perk, more than anything, that keeps us going despite the long hours and the stressful deadlines. And it seems our readers have enjoyed the provocation as much as we have had fun dishing it out. They've been clamoring, for instance, for our "waker-upper" feature, that weekly exercise where we heaped praises and aimed acidic barbs where we believed these were deserved.

This anniversary, for old times' sake, we bring back that sorely-missed gallery of rants and raves except, just this once, we give the thumbs up, or down, to what we like, or dislike, about life in Lifestyle.

No two days are alike

There's so much ground to cover in the Lifestyle section, it's up to our reporters to pursue what interests them. Be it in art, design, fitness, family, home, fashion, food, culture, environment, weddings, travel, the youth scene, etc., there's opportunity for the staff to learn something new every day. Variety is always healthy for a journalist.

OK, your friend is not a hag—YOU are!

One day, two women in bad need of liposuction came marching to our section. They were furious that our paper had called their friend a hag in one of our Sunday blind items. What the... Blind item, hello?

The real irony in this situation was that they took offense at the "hag" label, and not at the insinuation that their friend was an *estafadora*.

I told them I didn't think their friend would appreciate their admission that she was the person being referred to in the blind item in question. I was doing fine, being nice and all, until one of them, the one whose face had pores large enough to plant begonias in, asked how much was paid to get this item published. Now that did it! If her companion had not dragged her out fast, I would have cut her head off and declared it planting season for begonias.

Creatives, Inc.

In Lifestyle, you get to meet the most creative people on earth, since they're often doing their stuff in lifestyle-related fields. Jun de Leon essayed the Seven Deadly Sins through the magic of film and tracked down families of fabulous fashionistas for our Genetic Chic theme. Designer Inno Sotto guest-edited a fashion section and brought in as one of his writers chef Margarita Fores, who ended up doing a series on New York food. Another chef, J Gamboa, showed us that he is as adept with a camera as he is with an oven. Rachy Cuna wrapped up two sections for us, one for Christmas and another for Easter. Jim Paredes revealed his Aha! moments in one issue, while Lizzie Zobel and Margarita Delgado shared the joys of reading in another. Gilda Cordero-Fernando has taken us on walks down memory lane with her essays on her mother, her childhood home, etc. So many endearing talents, so many interesting people, and none of them dirty politicians!

The killing hours

The most hardworking team in this paper closed an average of 31 Sunday pages last month. The hours are a killer, given that Lifestyle always has the most number of pages to fill. If you're single when you're hired by Lifestyle, it's possible you'll stay unmarried for the rest of your life—unless, of course, you stumble upon romance right in the office, which is less likely to occur than lightning striking the same place twice. In Lifestyle you end up with zero night life, zero social life, zero love life. Zero life, period. Ah, the irony of it!

Food for the gods

Sen. Franklin Drilon's good wife, Mila, once sent us a catered dinner so mouthwatering we ate every bit of it. Others on our yummiest list are Estrel's caramel cake topped with bunches of butter roses, Oscar cake from the Peninsula, *suman* from Tita Paring, *pichi-pichi*, cheese pizza from Brooklyn Pizza in BF Homes Parañaque, roast chicken from chef Ed Quimson and a homecooked version by Agnes Quintos. We can go on and on, but space (on this page, not in our tummy) is limited.

All you can't eat

Along with the to-drool-for chow, we get carbo-loaded food that is exactly what the doctor didn't order because five of us are overweight, four are heavy smokers, three have high cholesterol levels, two are borderline diabetics and one thinks he's a partridge in a pear tree.

Froth and frippery, you say?

Some people still have the old-fashioned notion that the Lifestyle section is for women and, being so, that it's all fluff. News flash: the President is a woman, the president of this company is a woman and the editor in chief is a woman. None of them stands for froth. Just because we in Lifestyle are so fab and we know *that* look is so two seasons ago doesn't mean we can't deal with issues, because we have. Young people who are changing the world get the chance to be heard through our 2bU! stories. We've had extensive interviews with New Age guru Deepak Chopra, leadership expert John Maxwell, CNN's Maria Ressa and writer Jessica Hagedorn, among others. People who are advocating for abused women, reading to streetchildren, teaching good nutrition to poor housewives and cleaning up the environment are all over Lifestyle. There is room in this section for all kinds of people, all sorts of lifestyle.

More on Mark

Not a few hotels have called to inform us that Mark Ancheta, who has been misrepresenting himself as a Lifestyle contributor, sportswriter or supplement writer, has been trying to book a function room at the hotel for a fashion show of Congressional spouses that is co-sponsored by the INQUIRER. Once more with feeling: the INQUIRER has nothing to do with this con artist.

Active readers

With the cover price of the INQUIRER being what it is, we get readers who know which paper is worth their money. Oh, sure, they call, text or e-mail just to ask how much they have to pay to have their wedding announcements printed even when every Sunday we run a boxed item that says such notices are printed for free. But they also give us feedback on what we're doing right or wrong. We got hundreds of SMS on and after the Sunday of our Playtime with five Ateneo Blue Eagles, for instance.

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Inquirer News Service...

From page N2

the information in a local library). After all, the INQUIRER aims to serve its readers.

If 2004 was already a big year for INS, 2005 promises to be even more exciting.

I cannot go into details, but I will say that INS intends to launch a project that would further extend the INQUIRER brand in another medium. The INQUIRER, through INS, will enable people to access INQUIRER news wherever they are and when they want it.

Right now, INS is staffed by only four people: two editors and two encoders. And it is not yet a full-blown news service like the international wire agencies that file reports 24/7.

But INS will soon get there; just you wait.

(For inquiries on INS services, please e-mail ins@inquirer.com.ph.)

Checking if there's an 's'...

From page L7

and Sir Mike to my co-researchers Ray, Chona and Maricar—taught me that the theories and concepts I had learned in school were not enough. A quick mind and ready feet were required, too.

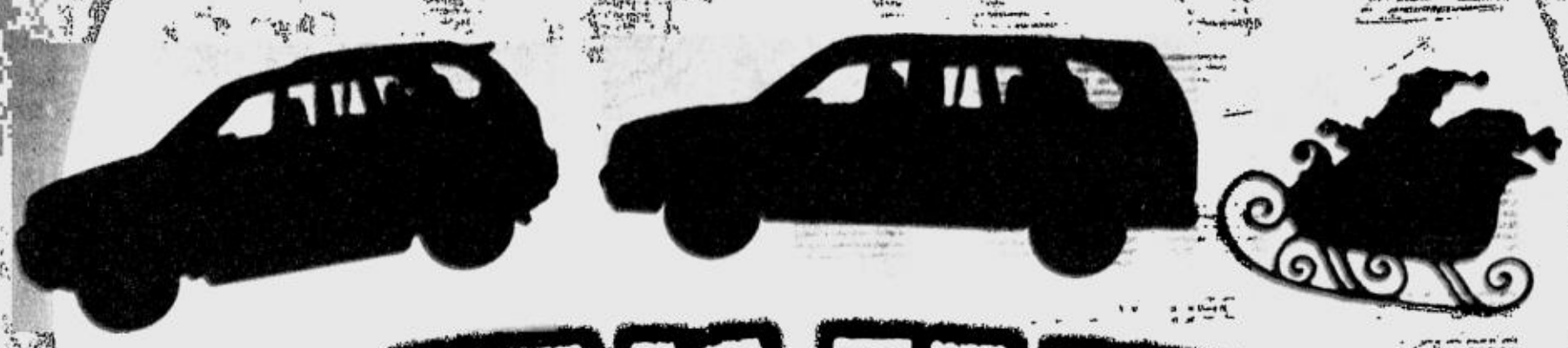
As a researcher, my primary job involves finding, collecting, processing and using information that could help clarify issues that matter in the nation's life. This means preparing research materials in a variety of forms—from special reports to graphs, from spot news stories to boxes of nugget-sized data about people, places, things and events.

It's very unpredictable, and therefore exciting. One minute I'm preparing a backgrounder on the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, and a second later, I'm checking if there's an "s" in the last word of the Social Weather Stations (there is).

Sometimes on busy days, the pressure is enough to make me want to run around like a headless chicken. But always after the storm, there's a giddy feeling at having achieved something no matter how little. The next day of course it's a new story, a different cast of characters, a fresh start.

It's fun.

Passion



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GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	62,921	43,370	34,371	24,763	20,205	17,131	16,067
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	90,000	60,215	41,505	32,895	23,699	19,337	16,395	15,376
GL 1.8 GAS M/T	698,000	80,000	51,500	35,349	28,023	20,189	16,473	13,963	13,096
DLX 2.4 DSL M/T	690,000	80,000	53,242	36,698	29,063	20,938	17,084	14,496	13,596
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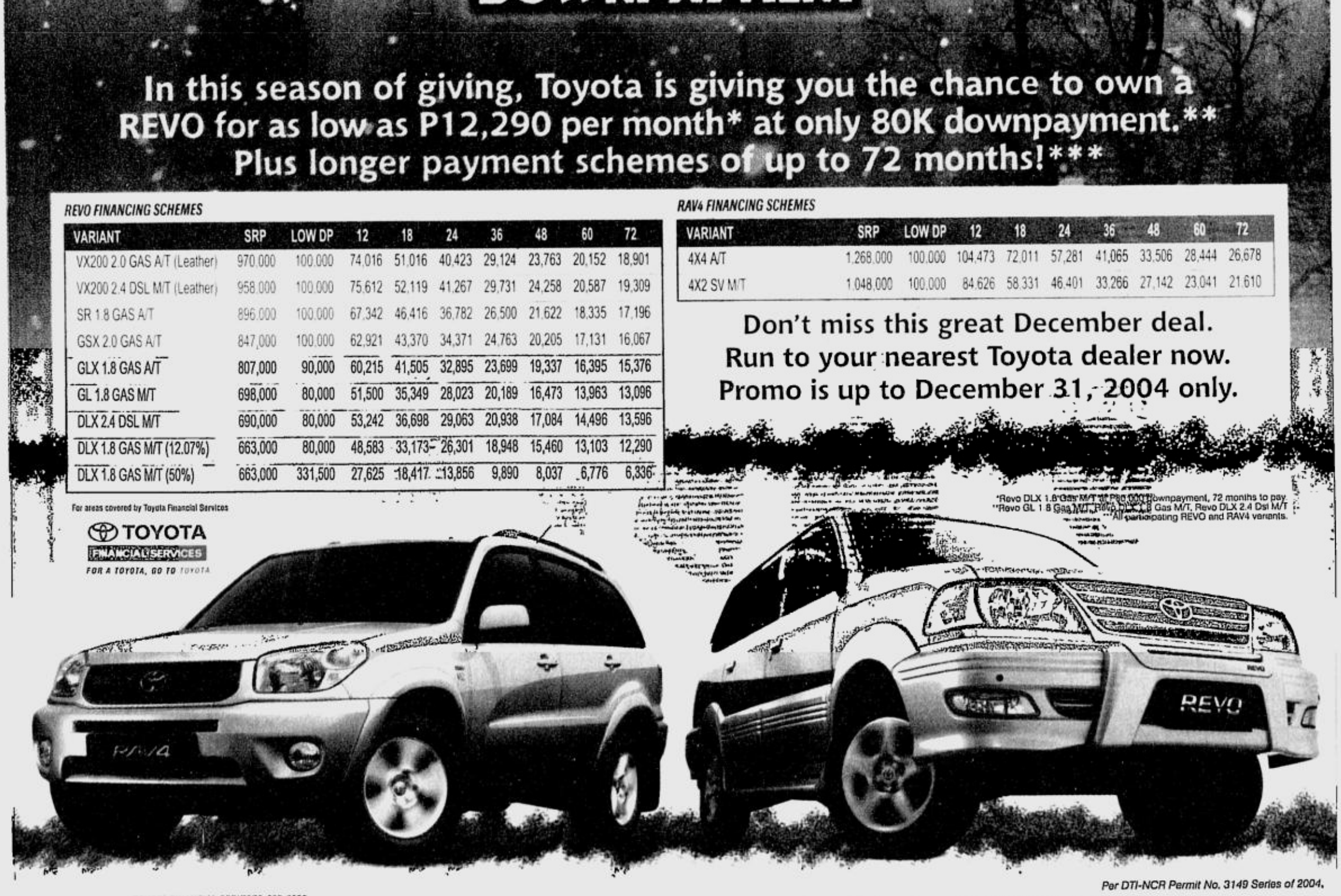

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'Hipo' makers, cast vow to push the limits

THE DARING cast: "We want to entertain, not stir controversy."

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

IT IS not hard to imagine sexy star Katya Santos singing and dancing. But bold hunk Allen Dizon and other Viva Hotmen?

Katya and Allen, plus Justine de Leon, Jayson Colis, Paolo Serrano, Ethan Zulueta and Jerome Ocampo are the main attractions in the sex-musical-comedy play "Hipo," opening tomorrow at the Music Museum.

"Hipo" is short for "hipokrito." The play is produced by Allen T. Dizon.

It is an entirely different endeavor for the bold actor who admits the only play he has seen in his lifetime is "Miss Saigon."

Dizon says: "Less producers are making movies nowadays. I used to make *lagare* when the trend was bold movies. I'm not used to being idle. I noticed that the thing now are stage plays with sexual themes—'Vagina Monologues' or 'Penis Talks,' for instance. Compared with these, our title is very wholesome. When Hipo was presented to me, I thought it wasn't a bad idea at all, and the timing was perfect."

Relevant issues

With 45 bold flicks made in a span of five years to his credit, Allen knows whereof he speaks when he describes "Hipo" as daring. "It is about hypocrisy, bigotry and prejudice in show biz," he says. "Issues which made recent headlines are presented in various segments. For example, the segment 'Escort Service' asks who the real victims are."

"Banal na Hipokrito" is a sketch about religion and blind fanaticism. A religious show on television is turned upside down when "unexpected guest sinners" show up on the set.

A segment Allen can easily relate to is "Bikini Open." He has been a candidate in such competition; in fact, this opened the doors of show biz for him.

Jayson Colis and Justine de Leon are also products of a male "beauty" pageant.

In 2002, Jayson won the title "Ginoong Pilipino." Running around in his undergarments is no big deal for him, being a Bench underwear model. Pampanga- born Jayson goes to the gym regularly, which explains his perfect V-shaped body. Whether on stage or on video, he doesn't make a fuss about nudity.

Twenty-four-year-old Justine has joined regional bikini tilts several times before, but never won the coveted title. He had to drop his studies at Adamson U when he auditioned for Viva Hotmen.

KATYA Santos and Allen Dizon

More than undressing

Originally, Justine was supposed to depict a gay character in one segment, 'Parlorista.' Sensing that it might harm the macho image that Hotmen projects, the role went to a Peta actor.

Instead, Justine plays an ex-convict in "Banal na Hipokrito," delivering a monologue about life in a prison cell and how society looks down on him.

Jerome Ocampo, Paolo Serrano, and Ethan Zulueta hope "Hipo" will make the audience discover that baring is not the only "talent" they possess. All three want "to be taken seriously as actors."

Also in the cast are Peta players Buddy Caramat, Bong Embile and Lotlot Bustamante. Script and libretto music are by Vince De Jesus. Soxy Topacio directs.

Nudity within context is what "Hipo" promises to deliver. Allen vows to push the limits, but says the production team will abide by all applicable rules. "We want to entertain," he says, "not to stir controversy."

Forget Britney, some people marry for keeps

LAS VEGAS—Looking radiant in a long, purple gown, Carlina Reyna left the wedding chapel in Las Vegas's Aladdin Hotel excited about her future.

Carlina, 36, is one of about 120,000 brides who every year shun a wedding close to home and head to the bright lights of Las Vegas to get married.

"Here you can get everything for your wedding in the same place," said Carlina alongside her new husband, 40-year-old Jose Reyna.

The couple from San Antonio, Texas, brushed aside any notion that Las Vegas, the world's wedding capital with up to 200 wedding chapels, is a tacky place to marry or hosts only "quickie" weddings that break up before the champagne is flat.

Of course, there are plenty of examples of such ephemeral unions.

Britney Spears's marriage to childhood friend Jason Alexander in Las Vegas in January lasted only 55 hours before the pop princess annulled it.

Socialite Nicky Hilton, 21, heiress to the hotel fortune, showed a little more commitment. Her recent marriage to money manager Todd Meister in Las Vegas lasted three months.

Las Vegas's wedding industry has grown over the decades due mainly to the state's liberal marriage license rules. Anyone over 18 can get a Nevada marriage license on the spot for a $55 fee.

Over the years some of Tinseltown's biggest names have come to Las Vegas to tie the knot, including Elvis and Priscilla Presley, Bruce Willis and Demi Moore and Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward—and some are still together.

Upscale weddings

The number of weddings has risen strongly in the past 20 years as city hotels started to host more upscale weddings alongside ceremonies at the stand alone chapels at the older end of the city's notorious strip of casinos and XXX-rated stores.

The number of licences issued rose to 119,124 in 2003 from 86,608 in 1993 and 59,835 in 1983.

Upscale hotels, known for their huge casinos and lavish entertainment, have set up expensively adorned wedding chapels in wings well away from gamblers. They offer packages appealing to the value conscious as well as big spenders in a one-stop shop for weddings.

A big advantage of a Las Vegas wedding is that you can get everything in one place and get hitched for a few hundred dollars or less, with some wedding packages priced as low as $55, while the traditional US wedding costs an average $20,000.

You can also book a chapel on short notice, get married 24 hours of the day, and some chapels offer Webcam services so absent guests can watch the ceremony over the Internet.

"It takes the stress out of the day to have everything organised by us," said Linda Swift, owner of Aladdin's chapel.

JASON Alexander

BRITNEY Spears

ELVIS and Priscilla Presley

The disadvantages of a Las Vegas wedding? You'll probably be sharing your special day with hundreds of other couples, with some weddings even overlapping if chapels are running late, making it feel like a production line of brides.

Charolette Richards, owner of the stand alone Little White Wedding Chapel where Britney Spears married at 5 a.m., stands by her slogan: "We love keeping you in love." She said couples planned for months, even years, for a Las Vegas wedding, and they are serious about it.

"The reason people come to Las Vegas to get married is because it is a wonderful destination of love, with the hotels designed with a lot of romance," said Richards, who has been in the wedding business for 45 years.

Drive-through weddings

Jennifer Brown, 25, in a white bridal gown, and Justin Rotarious, 23, chose to get married at the Little White Wedding Chapel, a busy chapel that boasts a drive-through "tunnel of vows" painted with cherubs for those who don't want to leave their car.

The San Diego couple said they didn't want an ordinary wedding.

There are also $1,000 ceremonies aboard hot-air balloons and lavish affairs in upscale hotels. Look-alike Elvis Presleys conduct weddings.

Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel offers a Gothic ceremony where the minister rises out of a coffin through fog. The happy couple can then retire for the night to the Gothic bridal chamber with a coffin-shaped bath and a graveyard bed with a headstone reading "Till Death do Us Part."

And if creepy is not your thing, other wedding themes include James Bond, disco, western, Egyptian or Liberace.

Swift said she refused to marry a couple at Halloween who wanted to get married in bondage gear. She stressed: "A wedding here is just as emotional and important as a wedding back home and people take it seriously."

Reuters

BRUCE Willis and Demi Moore

From the quickie to the creepy, Las Vegas wedding packages are still drawing thousands of couples

Jolly be, it's Sarah G!

DON'T be surprised if you see them at the next table.

NO two Sundays at the mall are the same. You'll never know what will take you by surprise. For Jollibee regulars, it could be the sight of the giddy mascot flashing his huge smile or strutting his latest moves. Or chancing upon your favorite star having a burger at the next table.

Thirteen-year old Justine Nuyda couldn't believe her eyes when she spotted her favorite singer in person at her favorite Jollibee joint. Justine was standing in line, waiting for her order to be taken when Sarah Geronimo came in and went directly behind the counter.

"I always watch her on TV," the girl gushed. "I was shocked when I saw her there. I never expected anything like it." Fortunately, Justine had a pen and notebook on hand, so she could ask for the teen actress' autograph to remember the moment.

Sarah is the Jollibee Yumburger endorser. She has a brand-new album that's bound to be another big hit, "Sweet Sixteen," which she launched earlier at the entertainment center of SM Manila. It was the first leg of a series of mall tours around the city, with the fast-food chain as one of the sponsors.

A matter of pride

During the program, Sarah regaled the crowd with songs from the album. Of course she also sang the Yumburger jingle, which she popularized with love teammate Mark Bautista, a fellow endorser.

Sarah and Mark are two of the many young talents that Jollibee has been supporting as part of the corporation's thrust of youth empowerment. "There are so many Filipino talents who have the potential to shine. To contribute to the development of this nation, we have to support such talents, so they could be recognized here and abroad," said Inez Reyes, Jollibee vice president for marketing.

After the launch and the autograph-signing that followed it, Sarah paid a surprise visit to the two Jollibee stores in SM Manila. She posed for snapshots with the Jollibee store crew and even went behind the counter, much to the delight of the diners.

Hungry princess

Some customers, like the Salazar family, were happily enjoying their *merienda* when they spotted Sarah. "I am such a big fan, so I was so happy when she walked into the store," Elaine Salazar said. "Even my children love her songs. She looks very nice, and when she smiled at us, it was very heartwarming."

But even stars get hungry. Before Sarah and her entourage left, she asked for some Jollibee treats to bring home—Chickenjoy and, of course, Yumburgers.

But do they get it?

From page 4

Among the other bands who participated were 7 foot Jr., Brownbeat All Stars, Session Road, Sugarfree, Dice & K9, Stonefree, Dicta License, Mongols and Cambio.

Mix-up

Reema Chanco and guests Ariel and Maverick committed a blooper when they introduced Ely Buendia's band, The Mongols, as Dicta License. At the end of Buendia's act, Cindy Kurleto acknowledged the mix-up.

Philippine Bouncers Association head Paul Aquino informed INQUIRER Entertainment that 200 of the group's members were on watch, with some Global City security guards and several policemen. At the end of the event, about 60 were reportedly reproached for throwing hard objects at the performers, smoking marijuana, and stripping. They were made to squat and do push-ups, then turned over to the police.

Actually, security measures were exaggerated. A particular bouncer would not allow this reporter and the PDI photographer to cross over to the VIP section where the bands went after performing. One instance, specifically, was when Duncan Sheik was just 10 steps away, and we were refused even just five minutes of interview within his sight.

Powerful a capella

After Rivermaya's performance, Rico Blanco sang the first stanza of "Ang Himig Natin" a capella, and then passed on the mic to Tropical Depression with Pepe Smith and Jr. Kilat, who engaged the crowd in a reggae dance.

"Next year whether we have foreign artists or not, it doesn't really matter," said Madrid. "Tonight we have proved that Filipino bands can draw the crowd."

Nepomuceno added: "Now we hope the message is clearer. It's not at all about stars and celebrities, but the message they deliver."

Whether the crowd took that to heart, one cannot tell. But that night really did prove that Filipinos are among the world's best musicians.

SM CINEMA movietime

what to watch

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
2 BIRTH

MTRCB RATING: R13 2046
SM Megamall Cinema 7 | SM Southmall Cinema 3 | SM Manila Cinema 6 | SM North Edsa Cinema 8

ALEXANDER MTRCB RATING: R13
SM Manila Cinema 4 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 3 | SM Fairview Cinema 7 | SM Megamall Cinema 6
SM North Edsa Cinema 6 | SM Southmall Cinema 8 | SM Tutuban Cinema 4 | SM Sucat Cinema 4

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING BIRTH
SM Southmall Cinema 10 | SM North Edsa Cinema 5 | SM Megamall Cinema 5 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 9 | SM Manila Cinema 7

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM Manila Cinema 11 | SM Megamall Cinema 12 | SM Fairview Cinema 2 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4 | SM Southmall Cinema 1

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING NED KELLY
SM North Edsa Cinema 1 | SM Tutuban Cinema 2 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 8 | SM Southmall Cinema 4 | SM Manila Cinema 5 | SM Megamall Cinema 5

ONE MISSED CALL MTRCB RATING: R 13
SM Manila Cinema 8 | SM Megamall Cinema 2 | SM Bicutan Cinema 3 | SM Sucat Cinema 3
SM North Edsa Cinema 4 | SM Sta Mesa Cinema 2

SM Bicutan Cinema 2 | SM North Edsa Cinema 3 | SM Manila Cinema 9
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING PA-SIYAM
SM Sta Mesa Cinema 1 | SM Megamall Cinema 8 | SM Southmall Cinema 7 | SM Sucat Cinema 2 | SM Fairview Cinema 5 | SM Tutuban Cinema 3

BCUZ OF U SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 12 | SM Megamall Cinema 11 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10 | SM Fairview Cinema 9 | SM Southmall Cinema 9

GEORGE OF THE DRAGON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 2 | SM North Edsa Cinema 2 | SM Megamall Cinema 3 | SM Tutuban Cinema 1

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB Rating: G
SM Megamall Cinema 1 | SM Southmall Cinema 5 | SM Fairview Cinema 8 | SM Sta Mesa Cinema 7 | SM Manila Cinema 3

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB RATING: G
SM Manila Cinema 1 | SM North Edsa Cinema 7 | SM Southmall Cinema 2 | SM Sucat Cinema 4 | SM Fairview Cinema 6 | SM Megamall Cinema 3 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 5 | SM Bicutan Cinema 4

SANTA SANTITA MTRCB RATING: PG13
SM Fairview Cinema 10

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891-9999
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MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

BANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171
PREMIERE THEATRE
(COLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE GP
1 (20.5%) POLAR EXPRESS GP
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS GP
2 (20.5%) BRIDGET JONES PG13
3 (20.5%) GEORGE AND THE DRAGON GP
4 (20.5%) 2046 R13

SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
Iseteann
1. (DOLBY) BIRTH
2. ALEXANDER
3. NED KELLY
4. ONE MISSED CALL
5. SALAT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SALAT
2 SEED OF CHUCKY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) GINGER SNAP
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 SKY CAPTAIN
4 (DTS) SALAT

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) PA-SIYAM
2 (SDDS) CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANKS
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 (SDDS-DTS) 2046
5 (DOLBY) BIRTH
6 (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
7 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
8 (DTS) BCUZ OF U
9 (DTS) SEED OF CHUCKY
10 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 PASIYAM
3 SALAT

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 THE SIN
4 RESERVED

stARmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES
2 GINGER SNAPS 2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) BIRTH
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
4 (DOLBY) 2046

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Greenhills Center
MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
5 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES
6 (Dolby) PA SIYAM
7 (Dolby) BCUZ OF U

stARmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SAW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALEXANDER
5 SALAT SA LIGAYA

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BIRTH
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA
3 PA-SIYAM
4 BCUZ OF U
5 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
6 NATIONA TREASURE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Mr. C finds time for Benedictine fundraiser tomorrow

LOCAL music great Ryan Cayabyab lends his talents to a fund-raising dinner show tomorrow, 6 p.m., at St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College on Leon Guinto Sr. St., Manila.

The musical program features his wife Emmy and her high school Class of '79.

SSC alumna Tina Monzon-Palma will emcee the show, an initial fundraiser for the archives-museum project of the Missionary Benedictine sisters of Tutzing. The museum is intended to be completed in time for the 2006 centennial of the college and the arrival of the first five Benedictine nuns in the Philippines from their native Germany.

SHOW TIME

The former ancestral home of the Feria family on Vito Cruz, currently used as the school dormitory, will be restored by architect Toti Villalon for the archives-museum project chaired by Dr. Angelita Trinidad-Reyes.

The public is invited to the concert. For details, please call project coordinator Vicente V. Pijano III, tels. 536-6350 and (0918) 922-0566.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUO NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3&4 POLAR EXPRESS-XMAS W/ KRANKS,BRIDGET JONES/GEORGE & D DRAGON/2046	
PREMIERE THEATRE	NATIONAL TREASURE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HELL WOLF!
CINEMA-2	SALAT
CINEMA-3	SEED OF CHUCKY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ONE MISSED CALL
CINEMA-12	BIRTH
CINEMA-14	PASIYAM
CINEMA-15	BCUZ OF U

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 BIRTH
10:50, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15
8:45, 11:15
R-13

2 BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
10:30, 12:50, 3:20,
5:50, 8:20, 10:50
PG-13

3 NATIONAL TREASURE
11:30, 1:05, 3:40
6:15, 8:50, 11:25
GP

4 2046
11:55, 2:45, 5:35
8:25, 11:10
R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ALEXANDER R13 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00	NATIONAL TREASURE GP 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10	BRIDGET JONES PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
ONE MISSED CALL R13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	2046 R13 12:00,2:20,4:50,7:20,9:50	NED KELLY PG13 12:20,2:50,5:20,7:50,10:20

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 - MON. - FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Saw
4 Alexander
5 Salat sa Ligaya

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Birth
2 Salat sa Ligaya
3 Pa-Siyam
4 Bcuz of U
5 Alexander
6 National Treasure

starmall FAIRVIEW
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CINEMA 1
2046
10:25, 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:35
R13

CINEMA 2
BIRTH
11:35, 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55
P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 POLAR EXPRESS (GP)
FS 10 45AM, 3 15PM, LMF 7 45PM
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (GP)
FS 1 00PM, 5 30PM, LMF 10 00PM

2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON)
FS 11 45AM, 2 15PM, 4 45PM, 7 15PM, LMF 9 45PM (PG-13)

3 GEORGE & THE DRAGON
FS 11 35AM, 2 00PM, 4 25PM, 6 50PM LMF 9 15PM (GP)

4 2 0 4 6
FS 10 40AM, 1 30PM 4 20PM, 7 10PM, LMF 10 00PM (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE NATIONAL TREASURE (GP)
FS 11:20AM,2PM,4 40PM,7:20PM,LMF 10:00PM

Regular Ticket Prices
Cinema 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295
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1	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	POLAR EXPRESS 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
2	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	NATIONAL TREASURE 11:50 2:30 5:00 7:40 10:20
3	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	ALEXANDER 12:00 3:15 5:30 9:45
4	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	BRIDGET JONES 12:15 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:10
5	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	
6	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	
7	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	
8	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	
9	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	
SUPER 10	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX	

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Gateway

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	DOLBY DIGITAL	ALEXANDER 11:15 2:30 5:45 9:00
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	BRIDGET JONES 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	ONE MISSED CALL 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:55
6	DOLBY DIGITAL	PA SIYAM 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:55
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	BCUZ OF U 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN TODAY 4 pm to 10 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Dec. 10	SLR vs. PUREFOODS
Dec. 12	RED BULL vs. COKE
Dec. 15	FEDEX vs. SLR
Dec. 25	DISNEY ON ICE 1pm/4:30pm/8pm
Dec. 26	DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm
Dec. 27	DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

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FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 ALEXANDER • THX 12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00	6 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
2 2046 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00	7 TWO BROTHERS 11:40 1:55 4:10 6:25 9:40
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	8 PA-SIYAM 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 NED KELLY 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 ONE MISSED CALL 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 BIRTH 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 9:50	
2 ONE MISSED CALL 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:15 10:00	5 RESERVE
3 2046 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	6 NED KELLY 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:15 10:00
4 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	7 BIRTH 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8180/81 / 682-8280

1 BCUZ OF U 10:20 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10	5 BIRTH 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
2 ALEXANDER 10:55 2:20 5:45 9:10	6 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:55 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:30
3 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:55 1:25 3:55 6:25 9:00	7 ONE MISSED CALL 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40 10:30
4 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	8 PA-SIYAM 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30

NOVALICHES 436-2781

1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15	5 BCUZ OF U 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	6 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:45 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:20
3 HELLWOLF 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 SYLVIA 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	8 THE INCREDIBLES 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30

MOVIE Delights
Frito Lay

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See Promo Posters for more details

Lays Doritos Lays STAX Cheetos Ruffles

promo period:
NOVEMBER 15 to DECEMBER 15, 2004

PIONEER 687-5378

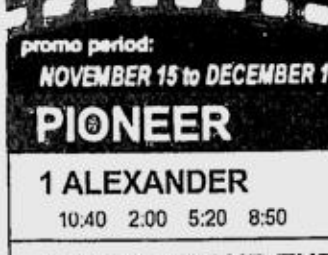
1 ALEXANDER 10:40 2:00 5:20 8:50	3 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:05 2:55 5:45 8:45
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:45 1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25	4 NED KELLY 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985 / 2575

1 SAW 11:45 1:45 4:05 6:15 8:30	3 BCUZ OF U 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:45 1:45 4:05 6:15 8:30	4 NAKAW NA SANDALI 11:45 1:45 4:05 6:15 8:30

CAINTA 240-4681

1 ALEXANDER 12:00 2:55 5:50 8:45	3 PA-SIYAM 10:10 12:50 3:30 6:10 8:50
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:35 1:20 4:45 8:45	4 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:20 3:45 6:00 8:20



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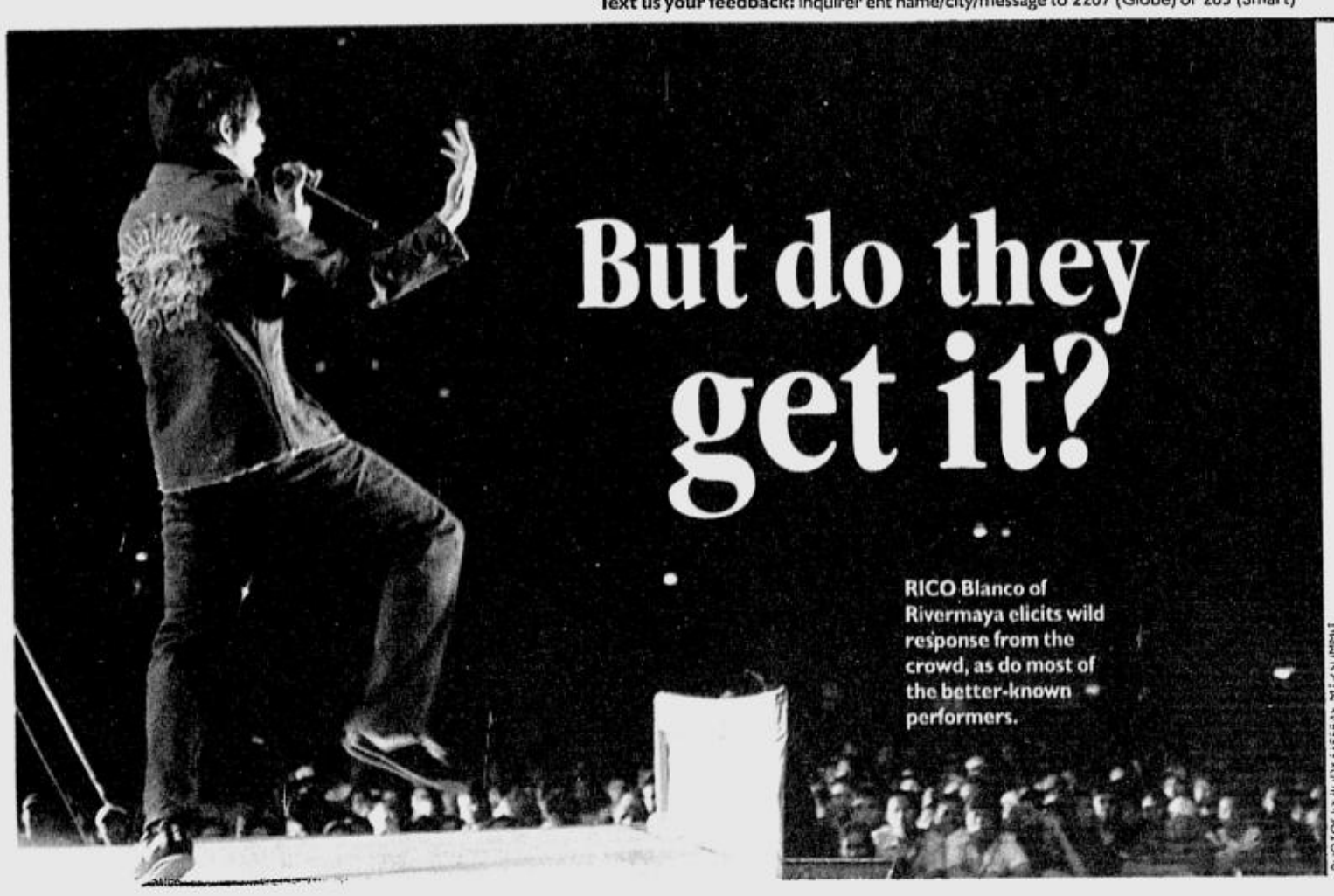

But do they get it?

RICO Blanco of Rivermaya elicits wild response from the crowd, as do most of the better-known performers.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS, MIKE SUMMIT

BAMBOO MAÑALAC

KITCHIE NADAL

MTV's annual music summit plays on, with the end in view of getting the message across to the youth: safe sex

By Alexa H. Bacay

WHEN an international pop star guests in a show for a cause, the raving fans tend to ignore the message and concentrate instead on the performer.

Such was the case last year when Mandy Moore made a special appearance in the MTV music summit for HIV/AIDS. The message of HIV/AIDS awareness was lost on the youth, the intended audience. The event looked little more than a big concert for the American singing sensation.

This year, Pinoy bands held their own alongside four international acts in the recent 2004 MTV Staying Alive music summit, held on World AIDS Awareness Day.

"What I'm very proud of about tonight, regardless of what happens [is that] we don't have a Mandy Moore here," said Jack Madrid, MTV Philippines general manager. "[Instead] we have the best Pinoy bands and that's who the audience came to see."

MTV music summit, in partnership with Staying-alive.org, is a yearly worldwide event for the awareness and prevention of HIV and AIDS among youths aged 16 to 34. This age bracket is MTV's target market; this is why it has taken up the campaign as part of its corporate social responsibility.

Global cause

"Here in the Philippines, the number of reported HIV and AIDS cases is shockingly low," Madrid said in a small gathering at the meet-and-greet tent. "But [we have] all the elements of an outbreak. I mean ... the use of condoms and [dissemination of] information about the practice of safe sex is not as [widespread as necessary]."

On a night when super typhoon "Yoyong" threatened to flood the Bonifacio Global City open field, an estimated 50,000 cheered, occasionally booed, and intermittently sang along with, the performing bands.

No one wants to talk about HIV and AIDS, said Rod Nepomuceno, MTV director for advertising and sales, because young people tend to think they are invincible.

"We want young people to realize that they can get it," Nepomuceno said. "We want them to know how they can get it, and ... how they can avoid it. And we communicate that through the music, through their idols ... who have embraced this cause."

Firestarter

The bands Check Experiment, Juan Pablo's Dream, Typecast, The Bridge and Mojofly performed during the pre-show, and Mayonnaise proved that it deserves to be this year's Red Horse Muziklaban grand champion.

A group of volunteers presented a skit about HIV and AIDS. Spectators participated in games to win P1,000 worth of prepaid phone credits, courtesy of Globe Gentxt. Unfortunately, some winners' prizes were claimed by contestants who had easier access to the stage.

Firestarting the summit was The Dawn, with U2's "Beautiful Day," and the original "Harapin ang Liwanag."

Barbie's Cradle played next, with "Independence Day" and "Torpe," followed by the hard-to-catch Makiling Ensemble, which served up a taste of its unique blend of Pinoy world music in "Spanish Dancer." South Border completed the first set. It was the 7-8 p.m. slot, but it started around 9 p.m.

Then the first foreign act, Joshua Payne, serenaded the crowd ala Josh Groban. He sang two songs, "Nature" and "The Moon," from his album, "Your Love, My Home." Payne was born deaf and had an operation that restored most of his hearing.

His apt message: "Go find your love and keep her."

Asian Craig David

Jay Sean, said to be Asia's Craig David, pumped the crowd up with his hit single "Eyes on You."

Caught at the meet-and-greet tent, Jay Sean said the comparison with Craig David was a big compliment to him. "Craig opened up many doors for British R&B," he said.

On choosing to have an identity of his own he is very clear: "I'm not gonna tell people that I am my own person because they won't understand that. If I say oh yeah, it's cool to be Craig David, but I'm so different ... that's like jumping on the defense, and I don't ... need to do that. If people really listen to the music, they can figure it out for themselves."

Jay Sean has this to say about HIV/AIDS: "Well you got to be real careful [because] there's a lot suffering right now and people aren't careful anymore. We're young, and we have a whole lot to live."

The punk group The Barbs sang their hit, "Massive Crush."

Most awaited was Duncan Sheik who came for the sole purpose of performing at the summit. Though his guitar string snapped during a studio taping, he was still gracious enough to play six songs for the rowdy crowd. He started off with "Serena," on to "Barely Breathing," "Fake Plastic Trees," "Start Again," "Wonderwall" by Oasis, and "On a High." He plans to go on tour next year to promote a new album.

Twisted knee

Sponge Cola's Yael Yuzon got injured backstage. He was reportedly standing near some cable wires when some fans called out to take his photograph. He turned, caught his foot in the wires and tripped. Despite this unfortunate incident, the band, who happens to be MTV's rising star for December, still managed to rev up the crowd with their hits, "Lunes" and "Jeepney."

The biggest crowd drawers—the ones who got the crowd really crazy—were 6cycle Mind, Kitchie Nadal, Sandwich, Kjwan, Razorback, Bamboo and Rivermaya, only seven of the more than 30 acts in the lineup. When Rico Blanco sang "Ang Awit ng Kabataan," even one of the bouncers was sighted singing and hopping to the song.

Marc Abaya played both host and performer that night with his bands Kjwan and Sandwich which had the crowd jumping around with "Dalirí" and "2 trick pony," respectively.

6cycle Mind set the crowd on fire with "Sige," its current hit. Kitchie wowed the crowd with "'Wag na 'wag mong sasabihin."

Rivermaya started its set with "Awit ng Kabataan," followed up with "Umaaraw, Umuulan," and closed with the current hit "Liwanag sa Dilim."

Undisputed

When Kevin Roy performed with Razorback, it was clear why they are such respected rock artists.

Co-hosting the event with Marc were Cindy Kurleto and MTV's newest VJs, Reema Chanco, Chesca Litton and John Joe Joseph. Ciara Sotto, Roxanne Barcelo, Regine Tolentino, Tony Leviste, Iza Calzado and Willie Revillame were among the guests who talked about AIDS between band performances.

MTV VJ Cindy Kurleto

Dirty finger

Performers who failed to please the crowd were rewarded with dirty finger gestures. Abaya implored the crowd to respect the performers. Though one group retaliated with the same gesture, most of the unfortunate performers kept their cool and just carried on.

When the throng got restless and started throwing empty cans, the bouncers quickly cornered the offenders and whisked them away.

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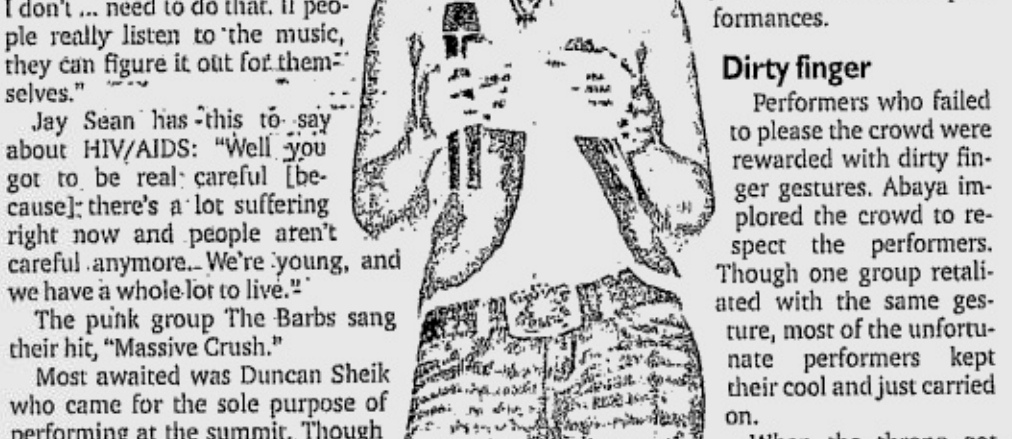

TROPICAL Depression